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United Nations

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report on the first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2001

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2001
Supplement No. 14

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United Nations • New York, 2002

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0252-3507

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Part one
First regular session of 2001

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 24 and on 26 January 2001

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

1. Prior to the election of the officers of the Executive Board for 2001, the outgoing President (Bangladesh) addressed the meeting. He spoke about the role and work of the Board during the past year, stressing the importance of ensuring the full participation of all Board members for informed decision-making. He acknowledged the support of the Executive Director and the Secretary of the Board and their teams, and thanked the members of the Bureau for their consistent and exemplary contribution to the work of the Board. He stressed the importance of programme delivery, and he commended UNICEF staff for their courage, compassion, dedication and determination. In that connection, he urged that every effort be made to address their concerns, utilize their talents to the fullest and keep their morale high.

Election of officers for 2001

2. Following the election of the new President (Armenia), he proceeded with the election of the remaining members of the Bureau (see annex II, decision 2001/1, for the composition of the Bureau).

Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

3. In his opening remarks, the President asked delegations to bear in mind during the deliberations the important and substantive thematic linkages between many of the upcoming events, in particular the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session on Children, to be held the week of 29 January; the Special Session itself; the conference on racism; and sessions of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, small arms control and human settlements. In addition, he mentioned the Global Movement for Children, which aimed to galvanize all protagonists for children, especially young children themselves, who shared a common vision that all children had equal rights to grow up healthy, in peace and with dignity. He outlined the work ahead, adding that with the support of the Bureau, and the positive and constructive spirit of Board members and other participants, he looked forward to a productive and purposeful outcome throughout the year.

4. The Executive Director expressed her appreciation to the outgoing Board President for his wise leadership, and welcomed his successor as UNICEF embarked on the final months of preparation for the Special Session on Children. She spoke about recent reminders of the urgency of the UNICEF mission, especially in humanitarian emergencies, and raised the subject of staff security. The growing number of deliberate attacks on United Nations staff and other humanitarian workers called for decisive action by the international community, not only to see to it that host countries ensured the security of humanitarian workers, but also to provide additional resources to ensure better training, communications and equipment. The Executive Director provided a brief overview of the work ahead for the Board at the present session, as well as in the eight months that remained before the Special Session. She paid tribute to UNICEF staff member Matthew Girvin, who, along with three other United Nations staffers and five others, were killed in a helicopter accident during a humanitarian relief mission in northern Mongolia. His tragic death, she said, was a terrible loss for UNICEF and those it served, but she knew that he and his colleagues "would have wanted us to forge onward. And so I can think of no better way to honour their memory than for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the cause for which they gave their lives". (See E/ICEF/2001/CRP.1 for the full text of her statement.)

Election of Executive Board representatives to the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health and to the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education

5. The President continued with the election of Executive Board representatives to the joint committees for the 2001-2002 biennium (see annex II, decision 2001/2, for the members elected to the joint committees).

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. The agenda, timetable and organization of work of the session, as contained in documents E/ICEF/2001/2 and Corr.1, was adopted. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session:

(a) Election of the officers of the Executive Board for 2001

(b) Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

(c) Election of Executive Board representatives to the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health and to the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Report of the Executive Director (Part I): Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

Item 4: Country notes

Item 5: Pledging event

Item 6: Private Sector Division (PSD) work plan and proposed budget for 2001

Item 7: Update on the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001: oral report

Item 8: Establishment of an operational reserve

Item 9: Financial matters:

(a) UNICEF financial report and statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 and report of the Board of Auditors

(b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Item 10: UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Closing remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

Item 13: Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA and WFP

7. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the rules of procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 71 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, two United Nations bodies, two specialized agencies, two intergovernmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had also submitted credentials.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Report of the Executive Director (Part I): annual report to the Economic and Social Council

8. In introducing the report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council (E/ICEF/2001/4 (Part I)), the Director, Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations, addressed issues arising from decisions and discussions at the July 2000 session of the Council, and the follow-up undertaken by UNICEF. He stated that the report followed a common format used by UNDP, UNFPA and WFP, and was structured so that issues were addressed in terms of status, problems, lessons learned and recommendations for action. This report, and those of the other United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Executive Committee members, would once again serve as input to the consolidated issues paper the UNDG prepared for the Council.

9. The report also dealt with the coordinated follow-up to conferences, as well as with the specific "plus-five" meetings of the past year, including the World Education Forum in Dakar, the World Summit for Social Development+5, the International Conference on Population and Development+5, and the Fourth World Conference on Women+5. The section on humanitarian and disaster relief assistance provided an overview of UNICEF activities in the humanitarian area, as related to issues of inter-agency collaboration.

10. Under this agenda item, the Board also had before it a note on the UNICEF response to reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (E/ICEF/2001/5). The Director stated that over the last six months, UNICEF had had extensive discussions with JIU to establish a more systematic mechanism for follow-up, and to report on how JIU recommendations and observations had been incorporated into the work and operations of

UNICEF. The draft decision included in the note had been prepared following consultation with JIU.

11. The Director provided an information note on the Millennium Summit and Assembly, which highlighted the references to issues of direct relevance to UNICEF. He drew delegations' attention to the fact that, particularly in the Summit and the Millennium Assembly statements, considerable attention was paid to children's issues and child rights. The Millennium Declaration called for significant action with respect to children.

12. A number of delegations commended the secretariat on the content, format and structure of the report, calling it concise and comprehensive. Some delegations made recommendations for future reports, including requesting additional information on capacity-building, gender mainstreaming in programmes and a greater focus on lessons learned. Welcoming the note on JIU reports, a few delegations recommended that future sessions of the Executive Board allocate sufficient time for an in-depth discussion.

13. Some delegations expressed their concern about staff security, with one stating that perpetrators should be brought to justice. Many speakers encouraged Governments to contribute to the cost of ensuring staff security.

14. UNICEF efforts in the Girls' Education Initiative of the Secretary-General were highly commended by a number of delegations. Some of them stressed the need for a clear division of labour between UNICEF and UNESCO on the Initiative, as well as in follow-up to the World Education Forum in Dakar. Regarding follow-up to international conferences, many delegations commended the work being done on both global and national levels, and encouraged UNICEF to continue to give follow-up high priority.

15. Strong support was shown for the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process. Many delegations encouraged greater cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular with regard to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). A request was made that the report of the Executive Director in 2002 include an analysis of the results and evaluation of the CCAs/UNDAFs. One delegation asked if UNICEF had found the process valuable, while another stressed the importance of bringing Governments fully into the process.

16. A number of delegations expressed concern about the decline in core resources and the impact this decline would have on programmes. One delegation commended UNICEF fund-raising activities.

17. Many delegations commented on the low number of resident coordinators from agencies other than UNDP. They noted, however, the improved cooperation at the country level and the harmonized administrative guidelines being used by UNDG members. The role of UNICEF in humanitarian and disaster relief was commended by a number of Governments. One delegation cautioned, however, that the organization should not lose its focus on poverty and the impact on children.

18. A number of delegations noted their intention to participate fully in the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session on Children. One delegation expressed his appreciation for the information note on the Millennium Summit and Assembly, and was pleased that the important goals contained in the Declaration were not being ignored.

19. Responding to the interventions, the Director stated that comments and suggestions for improvements would be included in the report of the Executive Director in 2002. Concerning the CCA/UNDAF and programming processes, he reported that 20 CCAs/UNDAFs had been completed, with several others nearing completion. Guidelines — including sector-specific guidelines — had been established, programme cycles had been harmonized and joint programmes were ongoing. Within the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review, there would be an external evaluation of the impact of the UNDAF. Questionnaires had been sent to all programme and donor country Governments, country teams and United Nations agencies. The outcome would serve to focus much of UNICEF work for the next three years.

20. The Director informed the Board that the UNDG had been expanded to include WHO and UNESCO. He emphasized that there was good collaboration at the country level among all stakeholders — Governments, the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral organizations and civil society. To a certain extent, this had long been the case; the challenge now was to draw on the best experiences and apply them more widely.

21. The Director stated that follow-up to international conferences was a very important aspect of the work of

UNICEF and the rest of the United Nations system. The goals and targets of these conferences had given the United Nations an overall framework and context, and had made it possible to create the CCA/UNDAF mechanism. Although there was talk of "conference fatigue", there remained new issues, such as HIV/AIDS, that had not been adequately addressed. He noted that cooperation with the World Bank has been good and that the Bank was a signatory to 10 of 20 UNDAFs. UNICEF country offices had been instructed to participate actively in PRSPs.

22. The Executive Director added that discussions had been held with the UNDG regarding PRSPs, and a new working group would comprise members from the UNDG and the World Bank. She stated that the selection of resident coordinators was improving. There was now an assessment mechanism and job description, but it was still a work in progress. Although the numbers were low, there were, in fact, women resident coordinators.

23. Regarding the comment that there were too many follow-up conferences, she reminded delegations that the conferences were held in response to requests by Member States. She emphasized that humanitarian work did not detract from UNICEF work for children. There was an increasingly unstable environment worldwide in which UNICEF could play a critical role because it was in countries before, during and after crises. (See annex II, decisions 2001/3 and 2001/4, for the texts of decisions adopted by the Executive Board.)

B. Country notes

Overview

24. The Director, Programme Division, provided an overview of the 49 country notes being presented to the Board for their comments. These programmes of cooperation would be further refined following the session, particularly in terms of the sharpening of the statements of objectives and expected results, the detailing of the programme components, and the identification of indicators for assessing progress and tracking results as part of the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. It was expected that these refinements would be evident in the country programme recommendations (CPRs) being prepared for the second regular Board session in September.

25. The country notes had bee
cooperation and consultation with
by Governments, and drew on fin
situation analyses of children and
well as on the outcomes of mid-te
lessons learned and evaluatio
programmes of cooperation. They
range of strategic approaches to U
and reflected and incorporated maj
and often the strategic goals of
system as expressed through th
existed. Where introduced by na
country notes aimed to show how
would specifically support sec
(SWAPs) and sector investment pr

26. The Director pointed out th
notes incorporated an essentially t
combining support to policy d
service interventions and specific
on a national scale, with a more d
marginalized or impoverishe
communities. He also provided e
overall focus on a rights-based ap
cooperation was reflected in the co

27. Six speakers commented
presentation. One delegation spok
lessons learned section in many
and the clear development and n
based programming and the li
Another delegation observed a la
the role of UNICEF in promoting
programming to United Nations
Bank and non-governmental or
and asked about the indicators for
in this area. The same speaker also
lessons learned in the country n
added value of a human rig
including on the change in the ex
the application of the approach.

28. While the general view was
country notes at the country lev
moving in the right direction, one
serious concern about the lac
coordination, partnerships or the
assistance picture in the areas in
active. The speaker conclud
improvements in this area, his dele
a draft decision on this subje
subsequent session. Another deleg

there were broad-based consultations in some countries, while not in others, and encouraged the secretariat to undertake an increased and more consistent consultative process at the country level.

29. While attaching great importance to the discussion of the country notes in the context of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF), another delegation stressed that UNICEF should be operating within the overall development framework of programme countries, as well as within the framework of its development partners, and cited, as examples, the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF), the PRSPs and SWAPs. The delegation stressed that cooperation should be undertaken in an efficient manner and should be part of the core UNICEF activities to reduce the burden on UNICEF country teams. The speaker also stated that adherence in the field to SWAP guidelines was inconsistent, and suggested that UNICEF remind its country offices of the SWAP directives.

30. A speaker said that it was difficult to understand how a proposed programme would be monitored and evaluated for impact, particularly in cases where a non-project assistance approach was proposed. In such cases, the country note should include a description of the proposed impact, the specific results to be achieved, and a monitoring and evaluation plan. The same would hold true, the speaker continued, for other programmes as well.

31. The same speaker expressed concern that advocacy, as the primary UNICEF strategy, was being overstressed in programmes. This was particularly critical in technical areas in which UNICEF had been a direct player and had a comparative advantage, such as immunization programmes, AIDS, and especially AIDS orphans and maternal health. It was hoped that this concern would be specifically addressed in the CPRs.

32. A number of speakers commented that the situation of disabled children, sexually exploited children and children in conflict with the law received inadequate attention in the country notes, adding that special protection measures should be provided for them. It was also suggested that special protection should be incorporated in early childhood development (ECD), education, health and HIV/AIDS activities right through the life cycle. The same delegation remarked that the country notes did not refer to the Concluding Remarks from the United Nations Committee on Rights of the Child, and that analyses in the country notes had focused more on the problems to be solved that on the strengths. While acknowledging that promotion of the participation of children was a challenge, UNICEF was urged to develop appropriate modalities and document good practices.

33. A question was raised about the progress made in the UNDG on the issue of the harmonization/rationalization of programmes. UNICEF was to ensure Board involvement at an early stage.

34. In responding to some of the comments made by delegations, the Director, Programme Division, said that the issue of partnerships was very important and that the Board could be assured that clear guidance had been provided to field offices. He said that the CPRs would reflect the impact of country programmes and the results achieved, as well as provide additional information on the situation of children in need of special protection, where possible. All the comments would be shared with country offices before the preparation of the CPRs.

Eastern and Southern Africa

35. The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa introduced the country notes for Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.9, respectively), reporting on common characteristics of all or most of the programmes. Among other things, this was the first round of new country programmes after the adoption in the region of a human rights-based approach to programming; HIV/AIDS had been adopted as a top priority; gender aspects had been mainstreamed in all the new programmes; the weakness of the "lessons learned" part of the country note had led to a strengthening of the evaluation capacity in the region; many of the countries were involved in the development of SWAPs and SIPs; and all nine country programmes had been prepared within the framework of CCA/UNDAF processes.

36. Appreciation was expressed for the manner in which clear strategies for district, regional and national levels to better ensure a positive link between community-based interventions and national programmes had been developed in the Eritrea country note, and for the intended focus on community capacity development. The focus and goals of the programme

were also deemed to be relevant. The mainstreaming of emergency, gender and HIV/AIDS issues in each programme component was also welcomed. However, a delegation remarked that the country noted lacked an analysis of achievements and constraints to improving the situation of the targeted group. Improvement was noted in the area of SWAPs, as well as in rights-based programming, and the increased focus on immunization was supported.

37. Since most of the emergency needs in the country were related to war-displaced populations, including large numbers of women and children, one delegation asked if the proposed programme would include a strategy to deal with this situation, particularly with respect to ECD, basic education and child protection issues. In that connection, a speaker added that the mass displacement of civilian populations had undermined efforts to improve the social infrastructure. Children traumatized by the recent war were going to require more attention. The same speaker said that inter-agency cooperation between UNICEF, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations agencies had helped to support the efforts of the Government and local communities to contain the emergency situations that prevailed in certain parts of the country. The flexibility adopted by UNICEF to meet renewed demands by adapting ongoing programmes was commended. Another speaker noted the lack of analysis of the problems associated with the demobilization of soldiers, and how it could affect the health of women and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

38. Several delegations remarked that the country note failed to mention the substantial HIV/AIDS programme. Of concern was how UNICEF would rationalize its interventions with those of the World Bank and other donors. Another clarification was sought about the relationship between the government HIV/AIDS programme and UNICEF-supported activities in this area. The Regional Director assured delegations that the proposed HIV/AIDS programme was fully integrated with that of the Government, and that it had been prepared within the national plan and in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

39. One delegation was particularly appreciative of how the Eritrea country note had brought forward the challenges of girls, who were at greater risk of HIV/AIDS infection, sexual exploitation, and health complications due to early childbirth and some harmful traditional practices. Efforts to develop gender sensitive strategies were welcomed. It was felt that this was an example to be followed in other country programmes.

40. Several delegations felt that the Ethiopia country note was an appropriate response to the development challenges and was within the UNICEF mandate. However, one speaker expressed the view that the document did not adequately address the poverty issue, particularly the problem of chronic food insecurity. Dialogue with the Government and other key partners was required to address policies that were linked to the many dimensions of poverty. One the other hand, another speaker welcomed the formulation of the country programme, which appeared to be based on the government poverty reduction strategy and UNDAF.

41. Another delegation was pleased to note that the programme addressed the issue of sustainability. This was essential in view of the decrease in the flow of funds to some key services such as immunization. The country note was cited by one delegation for its reflection of both the opportunities and challenges of community-based approaches. UNICEF had a rich experience in such interventions, and this knowledge should feed into national policy and strategy development for sustainability and replication.

42. According to one speaker, the health programme was well-coordinated with those of most other donors. There was, however, a lack of emphasis on the very important area of maternal health. Since most donors were not addressing this area, there was a large gap between the need and the available resources. The delegation urged UNICEF, as the lead agency promoting the well-being of mothers, to include a focus on this area in the country programme.

43. While a delegation felt that the country note had been prepared following broad consultations with partners, further information was sought on the issues that would be addressed by the child protection programmes. The analysis mentioned several categories, but the specific responses were lacking. Additional information was requested on how the monitoring of child rights would be carried out and promoted with the Human Rights Commission and ombudsman structures. In addition, the secretariat was asked to explain the kinds of differences a right-based approach was making in the way UNICEF was planning and carrying out programmes in Ethiopia. A speaker voiced concern that the country note made no

mention of internally displaced persons (IDPs) or war-affected children, whose situation would remain a problem that the international community, including UNICEF, would have to address over the next few years. In that context, it was felt that capacity-building in the country programme should be strengthened. Additional information was sought on the precise approaches to be followed in the area of HIV/AIDS, especially for children orphaned by AIDS. The Regional Director reassured delegations that UNICEF planned to increase its focus on IDPs.

44. The country delegation spoke about the long, good relationship between the Government and UNICEF. Emphasis on the health programme had positively impacted other areas. The country programme, with its focus on gender equity, education, especially girls' education, and poverty reduction, were also national priorities.

45. In the *Lesotho* country note, the focus on poverty reduction through four programmes, all of which contained elements to combat HIV/AIDS and fight violence against women, was commended. The delegation felt that in a country where 25 per cent of the population were sero-positive and 15 per cent of children had lost one of their parents, the proposed programme had the appropriate objectives and conformed to the priorities of the country.

46. Another delegation felt that the country note did not adequately reflect the positive reforms now being implemented in the country, which included privatization through the government's poverty alleviation strategies, the Lesotho community development fund, and health and education reforms. A question was raised about whether the provision of technical support would incorporate child rights into policies and programmes.

47. One delegation commented on the size of the programme budget and the breadth of programming across four or five sectors, as reflected in the Malawi country note. It was felt that UNICEF might be spreading itself too thinly. Experience had shown that in a country like Malawi, better results would be achieved by focusing more intense efforts in fewer areas. In addressing the concern of some delegations about the capacity of Malawi to implement community-based activities, a speaker expressed confidence that the necessary capacity was available. The Regional Director concurred that there were many programme areas, adding that the programme had been developed based on Government priorities and that it was an improvement over the current programme. This situation was a result of trying to balance the needs, the capacity and the willingness of certain ministries to move forward.

48. The approach to HIV/AIDS was seen as appropriate, and, overall, the results of the evaluation carried out in 2000 were positive. UNICEF was urged to place more emphasis on priority areas. Several speakers addressed the goal of reducing infant and child mortality by 25 per cent and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS by 50 per cent. This seemed quite ambitious in view of the AIDS pandemic, and one delegation questioned whether those targets were realistic.

49. Coordination with other donors and links with the government's major policy instruments, specifically national health plan and education policy investment frameworks, were questioned. UNICEF was encouraged to be more active in donor coordination and to participate in PRSPs. A delegation welcomed the very good section in the country note on UNDAF and SWAP experiences, which was also reflected in the strategy. In that connection, a question was raised about the priorities mentioned in the country and those of the Government in SWAPs.

50. While agreeing with the assessment of the overall situation in Mozambique and endorsing the proposed country strategy, especially the emphasis on HIV/AIDS, one delegation expressed some reservations about the accuracy of some of the figures, in particular in the health and water and sanitation sectors. However, the speaker was pleased to note that the new water and sanitation programme was conceptually updated and an improvement over the previous programme in terms of its integrated and demand-driven approach. On the other hand, more attention could have been given to the cholera problem. The delegation regretted that UNICEF was not more closely involved in SWAPs in the country. The delegation went on to state that UNICEF had missed the opportunity for capacity-building by doing too much itself during the floods.

51. One delegation asked if any of the proposed allocations would be used to help rebuild the educational infrastructure destroyed by last year's floods as it was clearly a need based on the assessment. Another delegation wondered why UNICEF did not take a more proactive role in the rights-based approach

for education. Efforts to mobilize communities around education for out-of-school youth and children, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, were welcomed.

52. The emphasis on child protection and the development of innovative projects in the area were commended by a speaker. Support to the areas of policy development, legislation and operational standards was also appreciated. However, his Government regretted the lack of a specific mention of children with disabilities in the country note.

53. A question was raised about the proposed programme strategy using the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) to expand the use of impregnated bednets for malaria control, and whether Mozambique had an established IMCI programme that could be used for this expansion. The Regional Director assured delegations that the malaria programme would use the IMCI programme in promoting the use of bednets.

54. One delegation stated that it took its position on MTCT on a country-by country basis. In Mozambique, UNICEF considered the prevention of MTCT a right and a high priority within the its programme. The delegation was of the opinion that Mozambique was at a very nascent stage of implementation and that MTCT was not its first priority. UNICEF was encouraged to consult more fully with its partners before finalizing its interventions in this area. In reply, the Regional Director said that UNICEF had the obligation to promote the prioritization of MTCT in Mozambique not only because it concerned HIV/AIDS, but also because it affected children.

55. A number of delegations welcomed the priority given to HIV/AIDS in the *Namibia* country note, which corresponded to the UNDAF process in the country. Given the scale of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, however, it was felt that the target of a 25 per cent reduction was too modest. The youth health programme was cited as being particularly relevant. One delegation asked if Education for All, including for girls and children with special needs, was a priority since it was not reflected in the country note. The delegation also wondered how the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child were taken into account since they were made in 1994.

56. UNICEF work in *South Africa* was viewed as strategic and pertinent. It fully incorporated government programmes and served as a good example for the region. A speaker commented on the good collaboration, especially in the area of HIV/AIDS. On the other hand, another delegation felt that the integration of HIV/AIDS activities with other programmes was unclear.

57. Another delegation raised a question about the importance of nutrition/micronutrients in the country programme since it was not mentioned in the country note. It was hoped that this was an oversight and that it would be included in the CPR.

58. The increased role of the private sector in development activities was considered unique by a speaker, who expressed the hope that UNICEF would take advantage of this and other partnerships. This was an area that should be monitored closely for possible replication. Although pleased to note the importance of the UNDAF and MTR processes in programme development, a delegation would have liked to have seen a short description of the division of labour and the planned partnerships. Advocacy activities were commended, especially those in support of youth and juvenile justice.

59. Several delegations agreed with the analysis of the situation as presented in the country note for the *United Republic of Tanzania*, especially in the areas of HIV/AIDS and community-centred capacity development. However, one delegation felt that the proposed HIV/AIDS programme could have been featured more prominently in the country note. It was hoped that more details would be included in the CPR. The country note also lacked evidence of sufficient support to AIDS orphans. The Regional Director said that UNICEF had developed a good HIV/AIDS programme, which included AIDS orphans. It would be funded from other resources, and several donors had expressed an interest.

60. While welcoming the more holistic approach to the child, one delegation was of the opinion that this was not adequately reflected in the country note. Another speaker felt that UNICEF should make use of the collective knowledge of donors and the various planning instruments, such as the PRSP. Mention was also made of the fact that UNICEF did not seem to be fully engaged in the SWAP process. In response, the Regional Director said that UNICEF was very much involved in the PRSP process in the United Republic of Tanzania, perhaps more so than in many other countries.

61. A delegation noted the imbalance between regular and other resources, and suggested that this required

further discussions by the Executive Board. On the other hand, the same speaker expressed confidence that the necessary national resources for strengthening capacities at different levels to realize child rights would be found.

62. The situation analysis as described in the *Zambia* country note was welcomed by a speaker, who also noted the relevance of the programme strategy. Another delegation supported the overall focus of the proposed country programme that would address HIV/AIDS, malaria, orphans and vulnerable children. The delegation expressed the hope that the CPR would specifically address continued support for child health activities, including the provision of vitamin A, immunization and other basic services; support for expanding tetanus toxoid for pregnant women and adolescent girls; and support to orphans. In addition, UNICEF work in health reform was appreciated.

63. Another delegation welcomed the work to be carried out in the country programme, but wanted to see more specific references to the issues of empowerment, the conflict perspective, child participation and children with disabilities. The same delegation questioned why only 8 per cent of the total budget was to be allocated to child protection. Emphasis on the participation of parents, families and communities in the management of educational services, as well as the work within the subsector investment programme, was commended. Regarding cross-cutting issues, the delegation asked why youth issues were not considered cross-cutting, when the Government of Zambia mentioned the young child as a cross-cutting issue.

64. A question was raised about any policy advocacy being done at the national level in relation to encouraging the implementation of an effective decentralization policy. This was important for UNICEF since so many of its programmes are implemented at the district level. A delegation also wanted to know whether UNICEF planned any national budget monitoring exercises similar those done undertaken in other countries.

65. The Regional Director thanked the delegations for their substantive comment and reminded them of the serious constraints encountered in trying to describe the country context, detailed lessons learned, information on partnerships and collaboration, and UNICEF involvement in SWAPs, SIPs, UNDAF and PRSPs all in four pages. In view of the fact that some of the questions seemed to have come from the embassies of the Board members in the countries concerned, he suggested that the local UNICEF country offices would be able to provide more detailed responses. He agreed to meet with delegations bilaterally to further respond to their concerns.

66. In response to the concerns raised about SWAPs, the Regional Office and the Regional Management Team had established a working group to try to find a more constructive and efficient role in SWAPs and SIPs.

67. In all of the country programmes, HIV/AIDS, malaria, emergency assistance, immunization, education, nutrition and child protection received — and would continue to receive — UNICEF support or cooperation. Although it would vary from country to country, UNICEF priorities were clear and would be discussed with its partners within the United Nations system as well as with its bilateral partners.

West and Central Africa

68. The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the country notes for the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.10-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.18, respectively). The nine countries presenting country notes were classified among the bottom 30 on the Human Development Index. She outlined such other challenges as armed conflict and displaced populations. The process of identifying programme strategies had drawn on lessons learned from the 1997-2001 programmes of cooperation, as well as on the results of a multisectoral approach, which reinforced the capacity of communities and local authorities in planning, participation, management of interventions and training. Preparation of the programmes had been coordinated by Governments, with United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and NGOs actively participating in the review of strategies. National development plans, the UNICEF medium-term plan and the three outcomes of the new Global Agenda for Children helped to guide the preparation of the country notes. The Regional Director said that all of the country notes highlighted three strategies that would be used to ensure national coverage: advocacy; reinforcement of national capacity; and service delivery. In concluding, she highlighted the important work being carried out at regional and country levels in

promoting participation to ensure children's and women's rights. This was being achieved in collaboration with African States, regional organizations such as the Organization for African Unity, other development partners, NGOs, youth, women ministers, First Ladies and parliamentarians.

69. Commenting on the country note for *Equatorial Guinea*, one delegation noted with regret that even after a national economic conference, there was still no plan for a more equitable distribution of resources. His Government regretted that the initial programme to radically improve the situation with respect to the rights of children and women had not been successful. The speaker emphasized that UNICEF could play an important role in facilitating dialogue and partnerships among all actors in order to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular the harmonization of national laws in these areas. The delegation encouraged more concrete action on behalf of children and continued support to decentralization.

70. Regarding the country note for *Gabon*, one delegation noted that the mechanisms for social protection were not as strong as they had been a few years earlier. However, the speaker said that approval of the proposed country programme strategy would allow for the extension of activities already in place to protect children and women in the context of growing poverty. There was also a need to build national capacity for more active social policy.

71. One delegation commented on the country note for the *Gambia* and noted the commitment of the Government to ensure the survival, development and protection of children. The delegation was encouraged that the Government had signed the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

72. In commenting on the country note for *Guinea*, a number of delegations expressed appreciation to the Government for the work being done for refugees, but felt that special attention was needed in this respect, and welcomed the appeal for additional support. It was noted that the Government had presented its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and had begun to elaborate a child code. These efforts and others described in the country note would have to be carried out in the context of poverty, indebtedness, the reduction in official development assistance (ODA)and the consequences of conflict. A delegation hoped that the recent attacks on border areas, which had caused displacement within the country and occurred after the finalization of the country note, would be taken into consideration during the elaboration of the CPR. With the disruption of health and educational services, the main victims were children and women. In response, the Regional Director noted the laudable support that Guinea had given to refugees and displaced persons.

73. One delegation expressed satisfaction with the quantified targets contained in the country note for *Nigeria*. She looked forward to seeing a monitoring and evaluation plan, and a description of how efforts were interconnected with those of other donors, in the CPR. She urged a more focused programme approach to ensure that specific results were achieved with the funding and staffing resources available. Her Government wished to collaborate with UNICEF in two specific areas not addressed in the country note — polio eradication and insecticide-treated bednets for malaria. She urged UNICEF to consider hiring qualified staff to work with partners at all levels to improve the quality of the polio eradication effort. She expressed concern about the 20 per cent increase in the cost of vaccines, and recommended that UNICEF expand its efforts to renegotiate the cost, help define country budgets and take steps to ensure high-quality vaccine procurement and logistics management. She felt that insecticide-treated material should be sent to institutions (hospitals and clinics) and project sites in order to avoid it ending up in the marketplace. It was felt that this would deter the private sector from investing. UNICEF should also look at alternative approaches to subsidies, such as vouchers, that would go to NGOs and others to reach the poor. Finally, the delegation addressed the role that UNICEF could play in across-the-board elimination of taxes and tariffs on materials for impregnated bednets, and requested that UNICEF ensure that policies be modified so that the vulnerable poor would benefit without placing a burden on the private sector.

74. Another delegation noted that the country note did not address the water sector. His Government had indicated a commitment to work in the area of water at the federal and state level and with other donors in Nigeria. In this context, his Government would finance an independent appraisal of UNICEF water sector activities.

75. One delegation noted that in addition to the attention paid to issues of child protection in the

country note, Nigeria was also expected to host the proposed Child Protection Unit of the Economic Commission for West Africa, which would focus on the issue regionally. Appreciation was expressed for the lead being taken by Nigeria in the subcontinent to mobilize resources to ensure the eradication of the polio virus by 2002 and certification by 2005.

76. The Regional Director thanked the delegation that pledged continued assistance for polio eradication and malaria control in Nigeria. The regional and country offices were already in contact with the Government of Nigeria regarding the issue of taxes and tariffs on materials necessary for impregnated bednets. In response to the delegation that raised concern about the water programme, the Regional Director confirmed that the new country programme for Nigeria would address this issue as part of the integrated growth and development programme.

77. One delegation noted that in *Senegal*, deficiencies in the areas of health, nutrition and education placed a large number of children at risk. Nevertheless, important steps had been taken to protect the rights of the child, notably, a new law adopted in January 2001 based on the two Conventions. The decision to create a ministerial department in charge of youth demonstrated strong political will to make the rights of the child an essential component of social development. The national programme that integrated nutrition and education at the village level was a good example of the relevance of this approach.

78. Regarding the *Togo* country note, one delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Government to improve the situation of children and women, specifically the adoption of certain legislative measures. Support for the country programme needed to be increased in view of the still unsatisfactory situation in the area of health, particularly immunization rates, and in education. The delegation appealed to UNICEF to continue its support, especially at the local level. Reference was made to the establishment of community groups, under the framework of the current programme, which were particularly effective in ensuring participatory decision-making in the various regions of the country.

79. The Regional Director expressed appreciation for the constructive and relevant remarks. Regarding Equatorial Guinea and Guinea, she confirmed that UNICEF would reinforce the capacity of the Governments and communities, above all to harmonize the two Conventions with national laws. She thanked the delegations of countries that had given increasing support to child protection in the region. Delegations were informed that Nigeria and Senegal were the first countries in the region with programmes for adolescents. In closing, the Regional Director stated that although the needs were great in West and Central Africa, there were a number of opportunities that could be seized by Governments, civil society and local communities.

Americas and the Caribbean

80. The Regional Director for the Americas and Caribbean presented country notes for Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.19-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.34, respectively). He provided an overview of the dynamic and complex environment in which the 16 country notes had been developed, highlighting that a new political consensus for children's rights had emerged in the region. UNICEF continued to work on survival interventions, primarily on "unfinished business" in countries lagging in the achievement of the World Summit for Children goals. He noted that in recent years, regional priorities had become firmly focused on primary education, as well as on child protection and the eradication of child labour. There was also growing interest in programming to benefit the physically and mentally disabled. Other interventions targeted the broader family- and community-level issues, all within a child rights approach. The Regional Director referred to the 10th Ibero-American Summit of Presidents and Heads of States, where 21 leaders declared their ongoing commitment to the fulfilment of children's rights. He stated that the 16 country notes, and the vision of cooperation they represented for the region, were challenging and would take all the talent and resources that UNICEF and its partners could mobilize.

81. Many delegations expressed their support for both the country notes and the general goals of the programmes. Several speakers concurred with the point made in a number of documents on the need to strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors, and felt that UNICEF was well placed to facilitate improvements in this area.

82. A number of delegations welcomed the growing commitment to child rights in the region. A few of

them expressed satisfaction at seeing the rights-based approach strongly reflected in the country notes of *Brazil* and *Costa Rica*, where children's rights were being mainstreamed in tandem with economic and social policy and institutional change. They also welcomed the country notes of *Colombia* and *Mexico*, which supported the creation of an environment in which children's rights would become accepted norms. In the case of *Haiti*, one delegation felt that the rights-based approach made sense in theory, but the proposed programme as described was too diffuse. The speaker urged a more focused programme in a limited number of areas, with specific indicators of progress which could be monitored over the five-year period. In reference to the country note of *Nicaragua*, one delegation requested clarification as to how the rights-based approach would promote basic services. Another delegation observed that it was not clear how the sensitive issues of domestic violence and sexual exploitation would be addressed, for example, in *Brazil*, *Colombia* and *Mexico*.

83. Concerning the issue domestic and family violence, the Regional Director noted that it was an issue that needed serious attention throughout the region. He mentioned that in 2000, UNICEF undertook a survey in 22 countries in Latin America, which showed that some 26 million children were exposed to violence in their homes. This scenario was reflected in another statistic of the region, namely, 85,000 deaths of young children every year.

84. Several delegations considered the impact of HIV/AIDS on children to be very alarming, especially in the Caribbean and Central America. They commended UNICEF for its active role as part of the UNAIDS Theme Group in *Mexico* and for the focus in the Caribbean and Central America. They noted, however, that the country notes of *Jamaica* and *Mexico* did not describe the specific activities to be undertaken to address HIV/AIDS. In the case of *Haiti*, one delegation felt that there was a need for assertive action in the areas of child protection and reproductive health. It was also suggested that there be fewer, more targeted projects.

85. In responding to the issues regarding HIV/AIDS, the Regional Director agreed that interventions needed to be stated more specifically. It was certainly one of the major challenges facing Central America and the Caribbean. He also stated that UNICEF had identified 13 countries in the region that would be targeted for a special multi-country initiative, to be presented to the Executive Board in September, which would outline strategic actions. He welcomed the initiative of one donor delegation to support interventions for HIV/AIDS in Central America and the Caribbean, and stated that UNICEF looked forward to working closely with the delegation's programmes in the region.

86. One delegation found that attention to gender issues and primary education was too weak in the country notes of *Brazil*, *Colombia*, *Mexico* and *Nicaragua*. He stated further that in addition to UNICEF focusing on overcoming disparity in education, more emphasis needed to be given to the issue of quality and relevance of education, as well as to the social integration of the disabled. Another delegation noted that the *Nicaragua* country note did not give priority to disabled children.

87. One delegation requested an explanation of why the UNDAF process had been delayed in *Colombia*. Several other delegations emphasized the need to elaborate on how UNICEF programmes would complement and/or take advantage of United Nations reform and the CCA/UNDAF process, such as in the proposed disaster prevention and reduction of vulnerability strategy in the *Nicaragua* country note, and the proposed programme linkages to UNDAF in the *Honduras* country note. The same delegation indicated that there was little evidence of UNICEF coordination with other United Nations agencies in *Mexico*.

88. Two delegations commented on the country notes of *Brazil* and *Venezuela*, pointing out discrepancies between official data and those provided in the country notes. One of the delegations suggested that data sources should be properly indicated. It was highlighted that in *Venezuela*, economic and social policies fully guaranteed the rights of all children, including the indigenous population. Commenting on the *Guatemala* country note, one delegation felt that more progress had been made in the area of legislation to combat crimes against youth than was reflected in the document.

89. One delegation looked forward to continued collaboration in the area of potable water in *Honduras* and *Nicaragua*. He expressed concern over weak institutional capacity and ineffective legal systems when working for women and children, and highlighted the need to improve programme evaluation, project management and the efficient use of resources. Another delegation encouraged UNICEF to include a section in the *Nicaragua* country programme outlining partnerships with other donors.

90. Two delegations agreed with the need for a flexible country programme, as proposed in the *Colombia* country note, and felt that the participatory consultation process represented the basic strength of the programme. However, they wanted to see a greater focus on social development, mainly in the consolidation of the peace process. In relation to children in conflict, one delegation requested closer cooperation among United Nations agencies in the country.

91. One delegation requested that UNICEF play an active role in supporting interventions to improve child health in *Jamaica*. While supporting the SWAP approach and other partnerships, the country note failed to reflect the number of young people involved in crimes and committing suicide. Early identification of risk behaviour and issues of exclusion needed to be embraced by the programme.

92. The Regional Director noted that all of the comments made by delegations would be taken into account in the development of the CPRs. He offered to discuss specific issues with delegations on a bilateral basis. He thanked delegations that had expressed support for specific countries and initiatives, and in particular one delegation from the region for its support to neighbouring countries in the areas of health and ECD. He stated that programming from a rights-based perspective had become increasingly important in the region, and UNICEF had already acquired significant experience, which was reflected in the country notes. He noted that in 2000, UNICEF undertook an evaluation of the impact of programming from the rights perspective, which provided a foundation for most of the programmes presented to the Board. He added that further information on what helped to determine the specific strategies reflected in the country notes was available to Board members.

East Asia and the Pacific

93. The Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific introduced the country notes for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Thailand (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.35 and Corr.1, E/ICEF/2001/P/L.36 and E/ICEF/2001/P/L.37 respectively). She briefed Board members on recent regional trends as well as on UNICEF priorities in the region. The preparation of the three country notes had involved a highly consultative process, including Governments, sister United Nations agencies, non-governmental partners and major donors. While the country notes had been prepared against diversified programming environments and offered unique features, UNICEF had tried to develop subregional and shared strategies and approaches. In all three countries, collaborative CCAs had been completed, and UNDAF processes were under way.

94. Several delegations commended the county notes. With regard to the country note for the *Lao People's Democratic Republic*, they welcomed the link with UNDAF and the strategy on community participation, and appreciated the bottom-up approach envisaged. One speaker sought clarification on how participation was to be achieved in schools, and pointed out the low allocation for special protection issues. Several delegations observed the need for an increased emphasis on handicapped children. One delegation praised UNICEF for its contribution to the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the country, and to polio eradication in particular. The same speaker noted the consistency between Government priorities and the preparation-for-life and water and sanitation components of the new programme and hoped for increased overall UNICEF support.

95. In response to a query about the low funding allocation for special protection activities in the country note, the Regional Director said that the new programme involved mainly information, advocacy and technical support, which were more people- than money-intensive. NGOs were also involved, and a large part of the programme budget appeared in the form of other resources to be sought. As for the need for more resources, the Regional Director agreed that the country faced serious challenges, including unexploded ordnance that covered one half of the country, and difficult access to social services. The Government was making a serious effort, as could be seen in the progress achieved and, therefore, it deserved sustained and increased support.

96. Commenting on the programme for ***Mongolia***, one delegation recommended that UNICEF should seek to more actively involve the Government in dialogue on strategies. This would produce better results in obtaining equity, quality of services and poverty alleviation. In terms of the programming exercise for Mongolia, the Regional Director pointed to the fact that the new Government had been installed only in mid-2000, and the strategy meeting was held only in December. However, UNICEF would now engage in a close participatory process with the Government to elaborate and fine-tune detailed strategies.

97. On the *Thailand* country note, one delegation praised the advocacy component of the programme in the areas of drugs, prostitution and child labour in particular. The same delegation expressed its satisfaction with the smooth progression of the CCA/UNDAF process, and hoped that UNICEF would continue its role as catalyst. Another delegation said that despite progress made on the World Summit for Children goals and in the access to basic services for the majority of the population, much remained to be done against child labour, prostitution and HIV/AIDS prevention. The same delegation invited an increased focus on the youth, girls, the application of relevant international conventions, and communication and training. The Regional Director welcomed the recommendation on reinforcing the advocacy and communication components of the Thailand programme, adding that a new youth ambassador was helping to actively engage young people.

South Asia

98. In his introduction of the country notes for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.38-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.40, respectively), the Regional Director for South Asia highlighted that UNICEF was using the opportunity of the Global Movement for Children to address several flagship themes in all countries in the region. These included: advocating for investment in children; developing innovative partnerships for children; promoting gender equity; achieving a quantum leap in access to quality basic education, especially for girls; advocating the right of children to be heard and to participate in development processes that affect their lives; and addressing growing threats to children, such as HIV/AIDS, violence and conflict.

99. A number of delegations expressed support for the three country notes, commenting positively on their good quality and emphasis on rights, protection and capacity development. They also expressed their satisfaction at the smooth running of the UNDAF process and its relevance to the programme process for all three countries. One speaker expressed his concern for the alarming HIV/AIDS trends in South Asia and recommended a stronger focus on HIV/AIDS, in coordination with UNAIDS, as well as the allocation of more resources to combat HIV/AIDS in the three countries. Another delegation noted that trafficking and its cross-border/regional dimension would have to be given more attention.

100. Regarding the *Bhutan* country note, one delegation praised the relevance of the strategies adopted and suggested a stronger articulation of the specific goals to be achieved. Another delegation criticized the validity of the data presented, considering them "unreliable". While appreciating the lessons learned, the delegation found them too general. The same delegation also urged a strong focus on disparity reduction and hoped that the capacity-building aspect would be more developed in the CPR. Another delegation considered the programme to be spread in too many directions and recommended concentration on fewer areas. It was also considered that UNICEF had withdrawn from the water sector owing to capacity limitations. The Regional Director acknowledged the comment, but noted that the programme approach combined a mix of advocacy, communication, analysis and action so that not all programme elements were approached in the same way. One speaker called for further information on the HIV/AIDS situation and on the government strategy to deal with it.

101. On the data used in the Bhutan country note, the Regional Director stated that the quality of data varied from sector to sector and that little disaggregated data was available. Thus, the improvement of databases was an important component of the new programme proposal.

102. Several delegations praised the quality of the programme as reflected in the *Nepal* country note and the appropriateness of its strategies. They noted the excellent inter-agency collaboration aspect and the direction towards the World Summit goals taken within UNDAF in particular. One delegation mentioned its positive view of the role of UNICEF in SWAPs in Nepal. The same delegation asked for more details on the HIV/AIDS programme, and suggested that the subject be discussed with the local UNAIDS office, while another speaker urged basket funding for AIDS. The Regional Director noted that UNICEF currently chaired the country HIV/AIDS theme group, and that, within the UNAIDS umbrella, UNICEF regionally was charged with addressing political advocacy and communications with young people in particular.

103. Positive comments were made on the decentralization strategy and on the way the programme took into account local characteristics and differences in the nature of disparities. One delegation observed that the country note could have been more specific in identifying the needs and goals in the various sectors, especially with regard to maternal mortality reduction.

104. Concerning needs and goals in maternal mortality reduction, the Regional Director cited the women's right to life and health project and the dual focus on the provision of quality emergency obstetric care. These would be combined with rights-based strategies to address women's access to the services and an examination of the impact of the status of women on maternal mortality and morbidity patterns. One delegation suggested that more attention be paid to trafficking. The Regional Director explained the community-based approach to prevention and rehabilitation, also noting the regional advocacy role of UNICEF in relation to the proposed Convention of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

105. Commenting on the *Sri Lanka* country note, one delegation expressed its satisfaction at the emphasis on protection issues, the conflict perspective throughout the programme and the importance given to capacity-building at both local and national levels. One delegation commended UNICEF for its transparency vis-à-vis the donor community in Sri Lanka, and for the positive role that the programme for children affected by armed conflict was playing. Another speaker would have liked to have seen more attention paid to advocacy and capacity-building, an analysis of the impact of the UNICEF programme on children affected by the conflict, children in welfare centres and IDPs. The Regional Director explained the division of labour between United Nations agencies and the particular focuses of the UNICEF programme.

106. The same delegation queried UNICEF actions for disabled children. Another delegation praised the strategy of working in both conflict and non-conflict areas and the importance of the integrated approach to them. One speaker noted the low financial allocation for the children in armed conflict rehabilitation programme. The Regional Director said that the children affected by armed conflict programme was fully funded from other resources, and was, therefore, very dependent on donor support. One delegation would have liked to have seen more thorough description of UNDAF and donor links, as well as an analysis of how UNICEF was helping to ensure an equitable distribution of resources between conflict- and non-conflict-affected children. The Regional Director again explained programme funding sources, and emphasised the excellent working relationships among United Nations agencies in Sri Lanka, including in the CCA/UNDAF process. Finally, one delegation requested a more analytical explanation of the role of UNICEF in education, noting that poor quality teaching and teacher absenteeism were major factors in poor pupil achievement levels.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

107. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States presented the country note for the Republic of Moldova (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.41). He described some of the trends common in the region, including, for example, the rise in the number of HIV/AIDS cases and a significant increase in poverty. The proposed programme of cooperation had been developed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and UNICEF, in close cooperation with a number of partners, including the World Bank. It took into account the CCA and the initial outline of the UNDAF, and built upon some excellent work done in bringing international conventions to life, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

108. The country delegation expressed its support for the three cross-cutting strategies as outlined in the country note. The main Government priority was to improve the well-being of children. In order to improve the situation in the country, children had to be protected from the hardship of the transition. The delegation said that in response to those concerns, the Government had taken steps to revise the laws on children's rights. A number of programmes had also been initiated, such as the national programme to improve medical and genetic services, the national nutrition programme and a programme on human rights education for schools. The Government had recently submitted a report to UNICEF on follow-up to the World Summit for Children which contained comprehensive data on Government actions for child survival, protection and development as well as on the future actions and programmes oriented to protect child development. The delegation expressed its gratitude to donor countries for the financial and technical assistance provided for different projects, and hoped that they would be able to provide additional funds.

Middle East and North Africa

109. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa presented the country notes for Algeria,

Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.42-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.45, E/ICEF/2001/P/L.46 and Corr.1, and E/ICEF/2001/P/L.47-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.49, respectively). He highlighted the organization's readiness to provide assistance to the children and women of Palestine during the recent crisis, as well as its willingness to contribute to the reconstruction and development of South Lebanon and West Beqaa, provided resources became available. The strategies, which had been selected to assure maximum programme impact within given resources, would promote the realization of child rights, satisfy the most urgent needs and contribute to the key outcomes for children that were part of the new global agenda.

110. Commenting on the *Egypt* country note, one delegation pointed out the importance of completing all the projects under way in Upper Egypt, while also stressing the need for protection, achieving full equality and reducing disparities.

111. A number of delegations stressed the need for additional resources for rebuilding and rehabilitating Southern Lebanon and West Beqaa, and appealed for accelerated efforts. One delegation highlighted the plight of children being killed and maimed by landmines. The Regional Director responded that the concerns raised regarding *Lebanon* were already being addressed.

112. Several delegations commended the country note of *Sudan* for placing emphasis on emergency preparedness, tolerance and peace-building. One delegation noted that the country note addressed humanitarian assistance with a view to long-term development. More clarity of strategies, however, was requested, for example, on how UNICEF intended to increase access to basic education for children in conflict areas and to address the drop in immunization coverage. One delegation stated that the country note needed to demonstrate clearer geographic targeting. Another speaker asked that the role of UNICEF in the programme of cooperation and in Operation Lifeline Sudan be differentiated. He further requested that the opinions of the Government be better reflected. The Regional Director stated that all concerns would be taken into account in the formulation of the CPR.

113. One delegation pointed to *Yemen's* weak capacity in planning, research, evaluation and social mobilization, and hoped that this would be reflected in the CPR. The same delegation hoped that World Bank-UNICEF-Government collaboration would bring about added financial and technical support to the country. Another delegation highlighted the important role of social communication in *Algeria*, where so many households had televisions.

114. Clarity, focus and targeting were recurrent themes in the comments of several delegations on the country notes for *Egypt, Tunisia* and *Yemen*. The Regional Director used the case of the *Syrian Arab Republic* to illustrate how the reduction of UNICEF regular resources highlighted the significance of targeted intervention. In general, the programmes before the Board had made strong efforts towards being more focused. Several delegations emphasized the importance of strengthening civil society participation, for example, in *Morocco, Tunisia* and *Yemen*.

115. One delegation commended coverage of the issue of HIV/AIDS in the country notes, highlighting the importance of addressing the pandemic before it evolved into the threat seen in other regions. The delegation suggested that a full analysis of the HIV/AIDS situation be included in the CPRs.

C. UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

116. The Secretary of the Executive Board addressed delegations on the matter of the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award. He said that over the past few years, many delegations had requested that the Award be examined, with a view to reinvigorating the process. Prior to the first regular session, both the outgoing and incoming Bureaux of the Board endorsed a plan in which a working group would be formed comprising representatives of the new Bureau, the Programme Division and the Division of Communication. An informal dialogue would be held in which all interested delegations could participate, and the working group would then present a recommendation to the Board.

117. One delegation agreed that the award should be reworked. He suggested that UNICEF look at examples of awards given by other United Nations funds and programmes. Another delegation asked what the time-frame was for the working group. The President stated that consultations would be held throughout the year, and the working group would present a proposal to the Board at the first regular session of 2002.

D. Update on the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001: oral report

118. The Executive Director briefed Board members on the major thrusts of the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session on Children, to be held from 29 January to 2 February. She noted that the Committee would be discussing the preliminary results of the end-decade review of the 1990 goals and actions in favour of children. To spearhead the discussion, UNICEF would make a presentation on global and regional trends, and two panel discussions would be held, one on adolescent development and participation, and the other on the girl child. Comments on the end-decade reviews, as well as the reports received from Member States and United Nations programmes and agencies, would serve as inputs for the report that the Secretary-General would submit to the Committee at its third substantive session in June.

119. A key item for the second substantive session was the general debate on the draft provisional outcome document of the Special Session, "A world fit for children" (A/AC.256/CRP.6), submitted by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and prepared with UNICEF support. As agreed at the first substantive session of the Committee, the document was to be concise and action-oriented, and focus on three major areas: ECD; basic education; and social participation of adolescents. It was to outline overarching policy guideline for children rather than reformulate global agreements on specific social sectors.

120. The Executive Director noted that the Committee was expected to take action on two organizational aspects of the Special Session in September, namely, arrangements for NGO participation and the format of the Session. She emphasized that UNICEF strongly supported the participation of NGOs as key partners of Governments and the United Nations system, and encouraged the active participation of children and adolescents in the process through membership in government and NGO delegations.

121. The Executive Director stated further that the success of the Special Session depended on high-level representation of Governments during the preparatory process and at the Special Session itself. Further efforts were required to ensure the assignment of Personal Representatives of heads of State or Government to the Preparatory Committee, and to encourage attendance by heads of State or Government at the September meeting. She reminded delegations that the success of the Special Session also required timely financial support by Member States.

E. Establishment of an operational reserve

122. The Comptroller introduced the report on the "Establishment of an operational reserve" (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.3), referring to the fact that its presentation at this time was in response to a recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.10). The paper reviewed the advantages and disadvantages related to the establishment of an operating reserve. UNICEF had managed its finances very well for 53 years without an operating reserve. Improvements in the levels of income and in the predictability of resources, as well as the improved availability of data through the new systems, all enhanced the capability of UNICEF to effectively manage its resources within the existing liquidity policy. It was pointed out that any establishment of reserves required the diversion of resources away from programme activities. The Advisory Committee, in its report on the paper (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.4), essentially agreed with the review and analysis as presented, but indicated that it would like to revert to the matter in the context of its review of the biennial support budget for the period 2002-2003.

123. All of the delegations addressing this agenda item complimented the secretariat on the clarity and conciseness of the report. They were supportive of the recommendation to maintain the current liquidity policy instead of creating an operating reserve at the present time. Many delegations also welcomed the efficient budgetary and financial management approach of UNICEF.

124. One delegation expressed the wish to have consistency between the United Nations agencies on financial matters such as this, and proposed intra-agency consultations as a means of promoting consistency.

125. The Comptroller thanked delegations for their supportive and helpful comments. She reinforced the fact that the establishment of a reserve would divert funds from investments in programmes. She emphasized that UNICEF managed its finances in a conservative manner and took a disciplined approach in

all of its programming, budgeting and reporting in order to maximize the benefits that could be derived from the funds entrusted to it. In closing, she stated that UNICEF reviewed its liquidity requirements on an ongoing basis and that if circumstances changed, it would not hesitate to come back to the Board for further discussion and potentially propose an alternate approach. (See annex II, decision 2001/7, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

F. Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2001

126. The Executive Board had before it the PSD work plan and proposed budget for 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1). The report was introduced by the Director, PSD, who also highlighted the environment surrounding PSD activities in 2000 as well as the key PSD strategies for 2001. These included, among others, its contribution to the Global Movement for Children, Private Sector Fund-raising Task Force recommendations, the PSD long-term strategy development, and a general focus on the corporate sector for both sales and fund-raising.

127. The majority of the delegations which took the floor commended the work of PSD, which generated about one third of total UNICEF income, and supported the work plan and proposed budget. Delegations welcomed the new initiatives such as partnerships with FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations), the Global Initiative for Fund-raising Techniques and experience exchange. Delegations looked forward to the first results of the above-mentioned initiatives in the near future. One delegation queried whether the Nordic Investment initiative could be replicated given the positive results. The Director responded that this should not be excluded, although on a different scale. Some countries of Central and Eastern Europe, for example, could represent a similar restructuring and investment opportunity in the future.

128. Welcoming the creation of the joint Private Sector Fund-raising Task Force, many delegations recognized the need to review its progress report. The Director and the Executive Director responded that the Executive Board would be informed of the Task Force's progress as part of the presentation of the PSD financial report for 2000.

129. The representative of the
National Committees expressed
Executive Board for its positiv
efforts made by the National Con
in the area of sales and fund-rais
product sales remained the core
he was pleased to observe in the
document the increasing focus or
raising. However, he found
projections for fund-raising
understated. The Director confi
conservative income projections
current economic conditions, inc
unpredictable exchange rates. Th
thanked National Committees
significant contribution to the
also for the valuable intelle
generation of ideas and initiatives

130. Many delegations expresse
decline in the PSD net operating
regular resources, and noted tha
revenues were decreasing, the p
still projected increased expendi
some Board members suggeste
resolution requiring a reducti
proportionate to the decrease in r
and Executive Director respo
resolution already contained a r
expenditures if proceeds were
projected level, which actually
resulted in expenditure reduction
2000. (See annex II, decision 200
decision adopted by the Executive

G. Financial matters

131. The Deputy Executive
Administration, Management an
the two documents being conside
item: the "UNICEF financial
financial statements for the
December 1999 and report of th
(A/55/5/Add.2); and the "Report
Board of Auditors and the Ad
Administrative and Bud
(E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.2). She me
Committee and the General A
deliberated on the documents. T
Director also indicated that for th

Board of Auditors had given UNICEF an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

132. The Deputy Executive Director expressed appreciation to the Board of Auditors, particularly Ghana, for their openness and professionalism during their audits. UNICEF looked forward to continuing to work with the external auditors from the United Kingdom until June 2001 and, thereafter, with the Court of Accounts of France. She also thanked the Advisory Committee for its advice and guidance.

133. The Deputy Executive Director provided highlights from the financial report and statements. In comparison to the results of operation from the biennium ended 31 December 1997, the biennium ended 31 December 1999 showed that total income increased by 13 per cent to $2.083 billion. Regular resources income increased by only 6 per cent, although income from government contributions decreased by 5 per cent. Total expenses in the 1998-1999 biennium were 93 per cent of the total income of the biennium. The liquidity ratio as of 31 December 1999 was 1.42:1 in comparison to the liquidity ration of 1.36:1 on 31 December 1997.

134. Some delegations commended UNICEF for receiving an unqualified opinion from the Board of Auditors for the sixth consecutive biennium, which attested to the high quality of the accounting and management of UNICEF. Delegations, however, expressed concern regarding cash assistance to Governments (CAGs) and noted that the unliquidated balance of CAGs as of 31 December of $159.9 million was $48.2 million higher than the 31 December 1997 CAG balance. A delegation voiced the same concern raised about CAGs by the Advisory Committee and some delegations to the Fifth Committee. A number of speakers requested that the secretariat prepare a report on current practices and on the implications of the amendments to the UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules for the September 2001 Board session. One delegation requested clarification on the role of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the audit recommendations.

135. In her response, the Deputy Executive Director noted that CAGs were always a most interesting issue and referred to the good debate that had taken place at the Executive Board session in 1999 when the revision of the UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules was discussed. She referred to paragraphs 21-27 of the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UNICEF for the biennium 1998-1999 where the Board of Auditors did not express concern about CAGs. She stated that it was the understanding of UNICEF that the Board of Auditors was satisfied with what UNICEF had done on CAGs. The Deputy Executive Director further noted that the 31 December 1999 balance was only a snapshot as of that date and would be due to a high number of transfers made before the closure of the accounts. UNICEF undertook intensive follow-up on unliquidated CAGs that were nine months and older, and senior UNICEF staff had undertaken these follow-ups personally during their trips to field offices and in meetings with government counterparts. Where the situation of CAGs nine months and older had not improved, CAGs to government counterparts might be suspended.

136. Citing the heavy workload of the secretariat in preparing for the third regular session in 2001, the Deputy Executive Director requested that the report be submitted instead to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2002. In response to a question raised by one delegation, the Deputy Executive Director also explained that the Board of Auditors had the authority to examine financial, management and programmatic aspects of UNICEF operations, including cooperation between UNICEF and Governments. She also said that UNICEF had very good cooperation from Governments on the matter of implementation of the recommendations from the Board of Auditors. (See annex II, decision 2001/6, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

H. Pledging event

137. The Executive Director opened the second annual pledging event, which was called for by decision 1999/8 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1) on the resource mobilization strategy, which stated that at the first regular session each year, Governments in a position to do so were to announce their voluntary contributions to UNICEF regular resources, as well as payment schedules. She outlined the current status of contributions received from Governments, and expressed gratitude for the strong support and confidence UNICEF received, as shown by the overall growth in resources. She expressed deep concern, however, about the trend of declining regular resources. She noted that the erosion of these resources threatened the essence of UNICEF and outlined the crucial role of regular resources for the organization.

138. The Executive Director thanked delegations for the voluntary contributions made to UNICEF regular resources for 2000. She appreciated, in particular, the 56 programme countries for their contributions, which were seen as a reflection of how their Governments supported and valued the work of UNICEF. She paid special tribute to seven donor Governments which continued to give generous contributions to UNICEF. She further thanked donor Governments that had increased their contributions the previous year, in particular Governments that contributed an increase of 7 per cent or more.

139. Thirty-seven delegations — 15 from programme countries and 22 from donor countries — made interventions. Including pledges received prior to the pledging event, the secretariat received 66 pledges: 49 Governments gave firm pledges and 17 gave indicative pledges. Fifteen Governments provided payment schedules, and nine gave tentative future-year pledges.

140. Many delegations shared and endorsed the Executive Director's concern regarding declining regular resources. They stressed the need to find a balance between regular resources and earmarked contributions in order to safeguard the essence of the organization. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction that the pledging event allowed better predictability and burden sharing in the context of a resource mobilization strategy and the MYFF.

141. In closing, the Executive Director thanked all the delegations that pledged during the session, as well as those that made statements of their intention to do so. She looked forward to hearing from delegations unable to pledge in January as soon as their budgetary processes had been completed. Document E/ICEF/2001/CRP.4, which reflected the pledges received prior to and during the session, was distributed. (See annex I for the for an updated matrix.)

I. Other matters

142. The Executive Director made an oral presentation on staff morale. She commended the fine work of UNICEF staff and emphasized that staff members needed a positive environment in which to work. In recent months and years, however, they were being asked to work in more dangerous, complicated environments, and were often separated from their families. Security was a growing challenge, and there was also a lack of predictability regarding funding of some posts.

143. She said that staff morale was a key priority of the organization and that she had instructed heads of offices to keep the issue high on their agendas. She outlined a number of initiatives under way: at global management meetings, human resources issues were always on the agenda; an Intranet site on staff morale had been established, which encouraged free and open dialogue; the services of ombudspersons were being used to a greater extent; and joint workshops for programme and operations staff were being held. She added that when she and the deputy executive directors travelled to the regions, they examined the staff morale situation. She noted with satisfaction that most regional offices had a human resources management and development team in place.

144. Staff welfare support included paternity leave, adoption leave, emergency family leave and the encouragement of a family-friendly environment. She noted that HIV/AIDS had become more than a policy and programme; it was now a human resources issue as well, with implications for UNICEF staff. She emphasized that although progress was being made in the area of staff morale, this was an ongoing process.

145. Two delegations expressed appreciation for the feedback, and agreed that human resources was a key managerial issue. Staff were the core of success of the organization. One delegation requested periodic reports on staff morale.

J. Closing of the session

146. In her closing remarks, the Executive Director noted that the first regular session of the Board each year was particularly important, in that it allowed in-depth discussion of programming directives in the context of country notes. She thanked delegations for their very important input, adding that she looked forward to seeing them at the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session, which would be held the following week.

147. She was very gratified with the results of the pledging event and appreciated the willingness of Governments to offer greater predictability of funding. In concluding, she congratulated the President and other members of the Bureau, noting how important it was to have effective, engaged Board officers. She also thanked the interpreters, the conference service officers and the Secretary of the Board.

148. In his closing remarks, the President expressed appreciation to his Vice-Presidents and the Executive Director for their cooperation and active participation, and also thanked the Secretary of the Board. He stated that he had had the occasion to work in many forums at the United Nations, and the UNICEF Executive Board was the most enjoyable.

149. He said that during his year as President, he intended to continue to begin meetings on time. He calculated that by doing so, a total of $13,500 would be saved over the course of the year. He hoped to see Board members at the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee the following week.

III. Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA, with the participation of WFP

Frameworks for Common Country Assessment indicators

Address by Poul Nielson, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid: "The United Nations and Europe: active multilateral partners"

150. The first part of the joint meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Movses Abelian (Armenia), President of the Executive Board of UNICEF. The Administrator of UNDP, the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the Assistant Executive Director of WFP, and Mr. Poul Nielson, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, were on the podium. The Administrator of UNDP introduced Mr. Nielson.

151. Mr. Nielson underlined the strengthening of relations between the European Commission and the United Nations, noting that there was scope for improvement and for the development of a more effective partnership. Cooperation with the United Nations system needed to be more systematic and programmatic and less ad hoc and project-based, and needed to intensify the mutual engagement in a policy dialogue. The enhanced collaboration would be based on the recognition of the added value and core capabilities of United Nations bodies in relation to the development policy priorities of the European Community.

152. Citing the change in the development policy of the European Commission during the past year, Mr. Nielson described the three major elements that had helped to shape the new approach by the European Community to development policy and development cooperation. First, the European Commission and development ministers of the European Union had, in the Development Councils of May and November 2000, agreed to a European Development Policy. Second, the 15 European Union countries and 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific (APC) countries in the ACP-European Union partnership had set a new milestone in their relationship by establishing the new Cotonou Agreement. Third, the Commission had taken far-reaching decisions on how to reform and improve radically the management of Community external aid. The three decisions were aimed to help the Community to respond to the double challenge of making external aid more effective and to help developing countries to integrate progressively into the world economy.

153. The resultant new development policy of the European Community focused on poverty reduction as the overall objective of its policies and activities. Within that global objective, the Commission would concentrate on six areas of comparative advantage: trade and development; regional integration and cooperation; macroeconomic policies linked with poverty reduction strategies, in particular the strengthening of social sectors such as health and education; reliable and sustainable transport; food security and sustainable rural development strategies; and institutional capacity-building, good governance and the rule of law. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment and human rights would be fully integrated into all activities.

154. The Community, as one of the largest donors in the area of development assistance, was trying to make the best use of existing frameworks and processes, such as the PRSPs and UNDAF. In the development of country strategy papers for the future multi-annual planning, the European Union would base its programming on those instruments, where available.

155. The commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development had served as a base for the new policy orientation of the European Commission for development cooperation. Those commitments had been fully incorporated in the ACP-European Union partnership agreement signed at Cotonou on 23 June 2000. The agreement emphasized poverty reduction

and the integration of developing countries into the global economy. A first step would be to reinforce the political dimension of relations between ACP countries and the European Union, including human rights, democratic principles, rule of law, good governance, gender equality, attention to corruption and the importance of communication and information. Regional economic partnership agreements would be included in regional free trade areas, allowing ACP countries to integrate gradually into the world economy. Regional cooperation and integration were seen as cornerstones to an effective response to globalization and trade was strongly linked to environmental and labour standard issues. The Cotonou agreement paved the way for increased foreign direct investments, which the European Union intended to stimulate through a new 2.2 billion euro business investment facility. Allocation of funds would be based on evaluation of the individual requirements of each country and their performance.

156. Mr. Nielson also described the reform of the external service of the Commission beginning in 2001. The aim to improve effectiveness was based on three main elements: a new Europe-Aid Cooperation Office to manage European Union external assistance; the establishment of stronger and more articulate internal mechanisms to ensure quality and coherence of European Commission assistance programming; and the thorough screening of existing commitments in an effort to improve the speed and quality of spending. The launch of the first phase of deconcentration and devolution of powers to 23 delegations in 2001 was well advanced and included the provision of human and material resources. All delegations would be included by the end of 2003.

157. One of the goals of the management of external assistance was to strengthen cooperation with selected United Nations development and humanitarian organizations. Changes to legal requirements would provide scope for more flexible cooperation with the United Nations, as would changing the corporate culture in the European Commission with regard to the United Nations. A number of key meetings relating to eradication of poverty would be held in 2001, including the Third Conference on Least Developed Countries and the Meeting on Financing for Development.

158. The development policy of the European Community had entered a new era. Given its role as a major global partner in development cooperation, the Community was ready to bear its share of the responsibility to improve international society. More global governance was required, not less. Closer cooperation between the European Community and the United Nations family would strengthen that effort.

159. In closing, Mr. Nielson expressed regret over the recent decision by one major donor regarding UNFPA, in particular at a time when there were so many abused and marginalized women who needed support from that organization. He emphasized the importance of the work of UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Foundation, organizations that contributed greatly to poverty eradication and a decent global community.

Comments by delegations

160. One delegation welcomed the "new era" in development cooperation heralded by the European Commission. Partnership with the United Nations, in particular, represented a very positive step. The main challenge was to intensify and build on coordination and cooperation. The speaker cited strengthened United Nations operational activities, the growing importance of regional activities, and enhanced collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions as positive developments. A realistic and holistic approach to development was required, one in which emerging ideas could be translated into policy guidance and strategies. Closer relations between the European Commission and United Nations in development and humanitarian activities was an important priority for her delegation, which currently held the Presidency of the European Union. Future dialogues between the Boards and the Commissioner would be welcomed.

161. Another delegation expressed gratitude to the Commissioner for his visit to Japan prior to attending the joint meeting of the Executive Boards. The speaker underlined the importance of ensuring public support for ODA through more effective and efficient programmes. His delegation welcomed the opening of the Europe-Aid Cooperation Office. His country shared many of the objectives described by Mr. Nielson, in particular with the United Nations. At the country level, the PRSPs and sector-wide action plans were key instruments. Aid coordination, the speaker noted, should be a gradual process, without imposing views on developing countries. It was important for recipient countries to select the right form of development assistance depending on the circumstances in their

country. In that regard, both programme and project approaches could be considered.

162. Other delegations welcomed the importance the European Union placed on development assistance and the growing cooperation with the United Nations. It was hoped that the Meeting on Financing for Development would help to reverse the decline in resources for development. One delegation underlined the successful experience of regional collaboration in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in poverty eradication. Another speaker raised queries regarding coordination among programming instruments at the country level and about how individual aid programmes of European Union members would be coordinated with the overall European Union aid programme.

163. The Executive Director of UNICEF expressed appreciation for the leadership of Commissioner Nielson in forging a partnership between the European Union and the United Nations. UNICEF was committed to working with the European Union in the ongoing dialogue proposed by the Commissioner. She also noted that UNICEF looked forward to the 10-year review of the World Summit for Children to be held in 2001.

164. The Executive Director of UNFPA thanked the Commissioner for expressing support for UNFPA, which would support the activities he had proposed, particularly in the regional context.

165. The Assistant Executive Director of WFP thanked the Commissioner for his statement and explained that his organization had recognized the important role of the European Union by adding a permanent observer seat for the European Union at its Executive Board.

166. The Administrator of UNDP expressed support for the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union, underlining the importance of the new initiative.

167. Mr. Nielson responded to the comments and queries raised. He stated that the Commission looked forward to accelerating the dialogue with the United Nations. He underlined the importance of cooperation in the area of conflict prevention and in activities aimed at bridging the gap between crisis and development. He emphasized the importance of effectiveness in development cooperation in maintaining public support for ODA. With regard to programming, he stressed the key importance of sector-wide action plans as a way of improving the quality and predictability of development activities. Using PRSP as a framework enabled better donor coordination, through the involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions. He emphasized the need for collective action on feasible programmes with demonstrable results. In response to a query raised, Mr. Nielson stated that the European Union would not provide core contributions to the United Nations funds and programmes, as individual members were already donors. It was hoped that the Meeting on Financing for Development would help to mobilize public support for ODA.

Presentation on progress with the use of Common Country Assessment indicator frameworks

168. The second part of the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP was chaired by Ms. Ulla-Maija Finskas-Aho (Finland), Vice-President of the Executive Board of WFP, who conveyed the greetings of the President of the Board. She informed delegations that the session would look at the progress that was being made in developing and using CCA indicators. She introduced the Chairperson of the ad hoc working group of the UNDG on CCA indicators.

169. The Chairperson of the ad hoc working group said that the development of the CCA indicators was an example of United Nations system cooperation at its best. In addition to the organizations represented on the podium, the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), all of the regional commissions and other agencies participated actively in that work. He stressed that the CCA was a country-driven process for reviewing and analysing the national development situation, that flexible guidelines ensured responsiveness to local needs and conditions, and that the CCA promoted partnerships among national and international development partners. He stated that the list of indicators included in the framework contained in the CCA guidelines was suggestive and not prescriptive or exhaustive. The indicators were designed to demonstrate progress towards achieving the major development goals of United Nations conferences, summits and conventions held in the 1990s. The indicator framework also helped to identify data gaps and areas in which national statistical systems needed to be strengthened.

170. In order to assess progress in the use of CCA indicator frameworks, the working group had sent a

questionnaire to those countries that had completed CCAs since the guidelines had been developed and had received responses from 36 out of the 37 countries canvassed. The survey had shown that United Nations country teams, working with national Governments, were using country-specific indicators. Data availability was the key determinant of which indicators were used. Most of the country teams reported close working relations with Governments, particularly national statistical offices and line ministries, with national experts being widely used. The survey found that the role of the national statistical office was central in terms of selecting and validating the indicators. In that regard, most country teams reported that they relied primarily on national data sources and that only in crisis or post-crisis situations did they rely heavily on international sources.

171. The survey had shown that most United Nations country teams had either established databases for the follow-up of international conferences or planned to do so. The ability to keep these databases up-to-date, however, was hampered by resource constraints and lack of expertise. The indicators in CCA frameworks were used as a basis for country assessment and analysis, for identifying key areas for policy and programme development and as a tool for joint advocacy and programming. Many country teams reported CCA linkages with other ongoing policy frameworks and several mentioned linkages with PRSPs. A majority of country teams reported having programmes to strengthen their statistical capacity or planned to do so within UNDAF.

172. The Chairperson indicated that there were several future challenges. The CCA indicator frameworks needed to evolve to respond to new priorities in national plans, conference reviews and the Millennium Declaration. Data collection was costly and only limited resources exist to strengthen statistical systems. Continued international financial assistance and technical expertise were therefore required. The development of new indicators should build on best practices from previous experiences and should take advantage of greater country and regional participation.

Presentation by Nepal country team

173. The Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal reported that the United Nations system had been working in Nepal since 1951 and that many tangible results had been achieved in improving the lives of the Nepalese people. The United Nations was a trusted friend and partner of the Government. He noted three projects in which UNDP, UNICEF and WFP were working to complement each other by making best use of the comparative advantage. He took special note of the concrete steps taken to enhance cooperation through the CCA and UNDAF. As Chairperson of the national workshop on the CCA draft, he had been particularly pleased with the rich debate on the development challenges of the country that the formulation of the CCA had generated.

174. The CCA indicator framework had been created over a period of 18 months during which a series of consultations had taken place with various government bodies engaged in data collection and with policy makers and other officials who needed and used that data. They concluded that a balance was needed between what was desirable and what was feasible. He singled out the United Nations inter-agency theme groups for their instrumental role in finalizing data needs and their sources. The data, comprehensive and up to date, would allow the Government to monitor systematically the realization of goals agreed to at the international conferences. One noteworthy intervention had been the close cooperation between the Government and United Nations organizations to make the upcoming population census more gender sensitive.

175. The United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative said that the CCA indicator framework in Nepal had helped to assess the overall development situation and to identify the main challenges. It underpinned the analysis of development needs and helped to monitor progress towards the achievement of global targets and the realization of UNDAF objectives. It identified data gaps and the need for capacity-building. It was part of a "Triple A" strategy in which assessment, analysis and action all played into each other. The CCA indicators that were being used had been selected because of their relevance to the Nepal context and the availability and quality of data. The participants in the process, the Government, United Nations organizations and other development partners, met in inter-agency theme groups to decide on the indicators. They had reached consensus on 114 indicators, based on 28 government and 7 international sources, although some gaps remained. To close those gaps, the national information system had to be strengthened in the areas of data collection, data processing and the harmonization of national statistical systems.

176. The UNFPA Representative in Nepal reported that the development of CCA indicators in Nepal had reduced the duplication of efforts by different organizations and had increased team spirit and the sense of purpose among United Nations staff in the country. The CCA document that had been produced had been well received, both in Nepal and beyond. In noting lessons learned, the UNFPA Representative said that the process could have been even more participatory, adding that it had increased the already heavy workloads of the inter-agency theme groups. He also said that it would have been more productive to have used a rights-based approach from the outset.

177. The results of the CCA highlighted the development challenges facing Nepal. The overall challenge was to reduce widespread income poverty: 42 per cent of the population lived below the Government-established poverty line, and the national development plan called for cutting that percentage by half by 2015. There were great disparities in income and the country ranked low on the UNDP human development index. The population growth rate continued to be high (with population doubling every 29 years) and health indicators, such as the maternal mortality rate and the infant and under-five mortality rates, were disquieting. Nepal had the highest child mortality rates in South Asia and women had little access to antenatal care. Primary school enrolment was improving but was still low compared to other countries and there were large discrepancies between the education of girls and boys. Women continued to suffer other disabilities as well.

178. The UNICEF Representative discussed how UNDAF would help the country move from analysis to action. He gave two examples. In the first case, he began with an assessment of girls' education: the net primary enrolment rate of girls was 19 points below that of boys. An analysis of that assessment had shown that current programmes were not closing the gap and that there was a need to increase the percentage of female teachers and to improve the quality of education provided to girls. UNDAF had now developed a joint programme to reach those goals. In the second example, the assessment showed gaps in labour market data with regard to gender distribution, child labour and the informal sector. As a result, it became apparent that the government's employment policies failed to address some of the country's critical problems. UNDAF had therefore included joint support for the establishment of a labour market information system and a labour force survey.

179. The WFP Representative/Country Director concentrated on joint United Nations actions in Nepal. He pointed out the geographic concentration of United Nations activities in the most deprived parts of the country. United Nations organizations were cooperating in a number of projects in several districts in the food-deficient western part of the country. He discussed the Achham Initiative in a western district, where UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, UNDP and UNESCO were all collaborating on projects that encompassed the empowerment of women; child survival, growth and development; control of HIV/AIDS; good governance; income generation and employment opportunities; and improvement of the social and economic status of low caste and oppressed peoples. Several agencies were also cooperating on a joint initiative against the trafficking of women and girls.

180. The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Nepal said that the fact that Nepal had been chosen for a special presentation to the joint meetings of the Executive Boards was testimony to the mutual confidence and successful partnership that existed between the Government and the United Nations organizations. Since those organizations had traditionally been the country's best and most reliable partners, the Government sought to increase its cooperation with them. The Government would work within any model that promised improved development performance; the Permanent Representative saw the CCA and UNDAF as such mechanisms. He cautioned however that Nepal could not afford the luxury of experimentation that held no reasonable chances of success and that there was very little margin for error. He stressed that cross-donor and cross-sector compatibility were essential but that the development of a multiplicity of donor-specific planning tools would pose great problems to a vulnerable country such as Nepal.

181. In their comments, delegations appreciated the presentation by the United Nations country team in Nepal and the statements of the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission and of the Permanent Representative. Several delegations noted the importance of the CCA and stated that it had to be at the heart of United Nations development efforts. They hoped that the role of CCA would be to focus on the discussion during the triennial policy review of the Economic and Social Council as well as in the

substantive discussions on indicators and capacity-building in the Statistical Commission. The presentation, and that of the Chairperson of the UNDG Working Group on CCA Indictors, had shown what the CCA could contribute to capacity-building. It had also shown the centrality of the role played by indicators in helping countries to reach their national development goals and in orienting United Nations assistance.

182. Several delegations stated that they were pleased that the CCAs gave priority to nationally developed indicators. One delegation said that more consideration should be given to the validity of regional indicators as well. It was stated that more had to be done to analyse the validity of the different indicators — one single, global indicator would not work for all countries. CCAs had to be Government-owned but consultations needed to be made with all members of the United Nations system and, to the extent possible, with civil society organizations, the private sector and bilateral donors as well. Greater coherence was needed among data collection processes and demands in developing countries. It was hoped that joint situational analysis would help to reduce the number of analyses that donors and the Government would have to do.

183. One delegation stressed how vital it was to establish clearly that CCAs and UNDAFs needed to correspond with the objectives of the countries concerned and that Governments needed to play a leading role in their development. It was pointed out that the indicators used to monitor the progress of conference goals needed to be reviewed for their technical validity by the United Nations Statistical Commission, an intergovernmental body. For example, there were no internationally agreed goals and no way to monitor the application of good governance. The delegation stated that all indicators needed to conform to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It was also pointed out that agreements made at global conferences applied to all countries, not just to developing countries.

184. One delegation reported on the evaluations of its Government regarding the implementation of CCAs and UNDAFs in two countries. It reported that progress had been made in building teamwork and believed that greater collaboration in developing the CCA meant better development assistance programmes. It must be remembered that the CCA was a process and would continue to evolve and develop. Another delegation pointed out that it was ever more difficult to convince taxpayers of the value of ODA. The CCA and UNDAF mechanisms had roles to play in showing the public that donor funding was not being wasted. The key was to make sure that the processes did not become overly bureaucratic and that they remained flexible in meeting the needs of different developing countries. The same delegation called for more coordination with the work being done by bilateral donors.

185. In his response, the Vice-Chairman said that capacity-building was absolutely central to the concepts of the CCA and UNDAF. In his country, the process had worked very well, with the Government having been involved from the very first discussion on the development of CCA indicators. That was absolutely necessary if the Government was to have a sense of ownership. The process, however, had revealed the extent to which it was necessary to strengthen the national information infrastructure. United Nations organizations, in that regard, were helping to enhance the ability of the Central Bureau of Statistics to generate and disseminate data.

186. The Resident Representative said that bilateral donors were involved in the theme groups and were part of the consultation process. The challenges ahead included the shortage of data and the need to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to meet that need. The Chairperson of the working group said that there had been great progress in implementing CCAs, but the process was still in its infancy. It was necessary to keep reviewing and fine-tuning, especially to ensure government involvement and ownership. Further capacity-building was necessary, especially with regard to gender-related data, which were often only rudimentary. That was one area in which United Nations organizations were particularly involved. He acknowledged that there was a lack of good governance indicators. He said that it was true that the CCA was a tool for use in developing countries. The monitoring bodies of international treaty, however, were involved in assessing civil and political rights in both developed and developing countries.

Discussion with executive heads of funds and programmes

187. The third part of the joint meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Gert Rosenthal (Guatemala), President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA. He welcomed to the podium the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the Administrator of UNDP and the Assistant Executive Director of WFP.

188. The President of the Board suggested that delegations move their discussion from the country level to a more corporate, general level. One delegation asked what the next step would be in integrating the CCA/UNDAF process into programme procedures. He further queried the role of a rights-based approach. The UNDP Administrator highlighted the goals adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit, which, he said, brought new energy to the UNDAF process and committed all Governments to global and national alliances. This would allow country teams to align themselves behind the goals of the Summit, engendering more effective cooperation among all partners, thus facilitating programming. The Administrator emphasized that the implementation of a rights-based approach was not the imposition of an outside agenda, but rather an opportunity to mobilize partners at the country level to achieve progress in a way everyone could support. The Executive Director of UNFPA noted that the rights-based approach gave Governments the tools to fulfil their treaty obligations.

189. The Executive Director of UNICEF stated that a number of countries — for example, Cambodia, Colombia and Mozambique — were adopting a rights-based approach. She stressed that the CCA/UNDAF processes should be led by the Government, with participation of all partners, including NGOs. She noted that great progress had been made towards government ownership of the process and that the CCA and UNDAF were being linked with the PRSP and the CDF. She reflected on how, in the early joint meetings, the Executive Boards had considered what the CCA/UNDAF could be, and at this meeting, Board members were already, after a relatively short period, discussing what had been achieved. To ensure that the process was not a burden, both the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Executive Director of UNFPA stated that situation analyses at the agency level could no longer be required and had already been replaced by the CCA/UNDAF in certain cases.

190. A number of delegations thanked the Nepal country team for their fine presentation and noted that there was both merit and substance in United Nations cooperation in that country. One delegation asked how the lessons of a successful CCA/UNDAF process, as demonstrated in Nepal, could be used by other country teams and what kind of leadership could be exercised from the central level. Another delegation asked what could be done to support wider development and dissemination of information and how the Bretton Woods institutions could be more involved with the work of the United Nations system. One delegation requested information on the link between data used in national human development reports and those of the CCA.

191. The Administrator of UNDP stated that major efforts were under way to diffuse good practices through joint training and that in cases where it was determined that the UNDAF process was lagging, missions were sent by the UNDG to evaluate the situation and to support country teams with their exercises. In the area of information dissemination, he brought to the attention of Board members the new Internet sites: RC Net (the United Nations Resident Coordinator Network) and DevLink (communications to support United Nations country teams). He stated further that national human development reports drew heavily on CCAs. He also noted that United Nations organizations were cooperating with the Bretton Woods institutions through their involvement in CDFs and PRSPs. He emphasized that ultimately what was needed was strong country ownership.

192. One delegation noted that national data collection in developing countries was generally weak and stressed the need for capacity-building. Another stated that CCA indicators should be varied and flexible, depending on the country situation. Another delegation asked for clarification on the role of regional commissions. The Executive Director of UNICEF said that regional commissions had been briefed and there was improved and growing interaction. The Executive Director of UNFPA stated that her organization had supported regional commissions in data collection, adding that there was already a great deal of cooperation in this area.

193. The Assistant Executive Director of WFP outlined periods in history when the United Nations system dramatically changed course. The CCA/UNDAF process was a logical and sensible tool to understand preceding movements, including the international conferences of the 1990s. He said that there was currently a will to cooperate and many effective country teams. He noted also, however, that each agency had an important, separate mandate.

194. The President of the Board summarized by stating that there had been significant progress in the area of indicator frameworks. He highlighted the importance

of government ownership and noted that frameworks needed to be adapted to local needs.

Statement by Executive Director of UNICEF on staff security

195. The Executive Director of UNICEF addressed the meeting, on behalf of the UNDG, on concerns about staff security. She stated that the safety of United Nations staff was a matter of greatest importance for the entire system. In recent years, risks had grown sharply, in direct proportion to the spread of armed conflict and instability. She said that additional resources were urgently needed to bring about significant improvements in staff security in the field. Only Governments could provide the political will and additional resources needed and only Governments could institute measures to end the culture of impunity, in which those who perpetrate crimes against United Nations staff go free.

196. She noted that the Secretary-General had drawn up a series of proposals designed to establish minimum security arrangements and that he had requested that an additional $5 million be placed in an existing trust fund. She noted that contributions to the fund had lagged and therefore appealed to members of the Executive Boards to make a firm commitment to the fund in order to protect United Nations staff.

197. In closing the meeting, the President of the Board thanked the distinguished members of the panel, executive heads of agencies and colleagues from the Executive Boards. He noted that the meeting brought added value to the organizations concerned, without detracting from their respective responsibilities. He stated that, as requested by the Economic and Social Council, the report of the joint meeting would be transmitted to the Council by the three bureaux of the Boards.

Part two
2001 annual session

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 6 June 2001

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

198. In welcoming delegations to the annual session, the President of the Executive Board remarked that they represented all areas concerned with the work of UNICEF for children and women and, as such, were a testament to the importance of the challenging, but fulfilling work ahead. The deliberations of the Board, he added, would contribute in a significant way to the third and final substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session on Children being held from 11 to 15 June. In that connection, he urged delegations to bear in mind their role, as well as that of UNICEF, in ensuring its success.

199. After a brief summary of the agenda items to be considered at the present session, the President concluded by expressing confidence that the deliberations would lead all delegations, as well as UNICEF, "closer to realizing that so far elusive goal of ensuring the rights of all the world's children to survival, protection, participation and development".

200. Joining the President in his welcome, the Executive Director spoke about how since its inception 55 years ago with an emergency mandate for children, UNICEF had continued to work tirelessly to generate political will at the highest levels, to mobilize resources far beyond its country programmes, and to win the loyalty of a worldwide public constituency. This strategy, she continued, combined with its all-encompassing focus on the well-being of the "whole child", had made UNICEF a moral force for children the world over.

201. In that connection, she reported that preparations for the Special Session were moving ahead, and made particular mention of four regional meetings at which she had seen first-hand the seriousness and resolve with which the situation of children was being addressed beyond the United Nations system, including by children and young people themselves. She expressed the hope that the extraordinary vitality and commitment of the regional discussions would carry over to the preparatory process here in New York to help chart an action-oriented path to the remaining World Summit for Children goals, as well as a powerful and focused agenda for children that addressed the challenges of the twenty-first century as it built on the successes of the 1990s. She expressed deep concern, however, about the funding shortfall for the Special Session, which she appealed to delegations to help UNICEF close as quickly as possible.

202. The Executive Director also took the opportunity to address the issue of the trafficking of children, which lately had drawn much media attention. She highlighted the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in extending assistance and raising public awareness, along with efforts by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization and others. In conclusion, she said that while the worldwide movement that produced the Convention on the Rights of the Child had helped to generate pressure to protect the rights of all children, it was up to Governments, law enforcement, international organizations and all levels of civil society to see to it that the elimination of child trafficking of every kind was accorded the same urgent priority (see E/ICEF/2001/CRP.5 for the full text of her statement).

B. Adoption of the agenda

203. The provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work of the session, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/7, was adopted. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1:	Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director
Item 2:	Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work
Item 3:	Report of the Executive Director (Part II)
Item 4:	Summary of mid-term reviews (MTRs) and major evaluations of country programmes
Item 5:	Ensuring children's rights in Africa
Item 6:	Report on the third session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH)
Item 7:	UNICEF experience in sector-wide approaches (SWAPs)
Item 8:	UNICEF activities in immunization
Item 9:	Field visits of Executive Board members

Item 10: Update on the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

204. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 55 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, three United Nations bodies, one specialized agency, 10 National Committees for UNICEF, seven NGOs and Palestine had also submitted credentials.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Report of the Executive Director (Part II)

205. The Executive Director presented her annual report on progress and achievements in 2000 against the medium-term plan (MTP) for 1998-2001 (E/ICEF/1998/13 and Corr.1), as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/4 (Part II). She said that the secretariat had tried to build on the experience of the last few years and to respond to issues and concerns raised by delegations earlier in the preparation of the report. Thus, the present report was more concise and focused more on results than activities, making extensive use of results matrices. There was also a greater emphasis on partnerships. The Executive Director noted with deep concern that for the first time in UNICEF history, regular resources income had fallen below 50 per cent, which threatened the organization's ability to work for the world's children and women. She also outlined the lessons learned from implementation of the current MTP, including its implications for the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2002-2005, currently under development. She sought feedback on how successful the secretariat had been in addressing the Board's earlier concerns as well as its guidance in the preparation of next year's annual report.

206. Numerous delegations voiced approval of the Executive Director's annual report. Several speakers felt that it was an improvement over the previous
year's report, notably its reada
However, one delegation felt that
for improvement. Some delegatio
fact that the report was much short
year's, as had been requested at th
session. Appreciation was also
improved results matrices, althoug
that the emphasis on the matrices
analysis and synthesis in the text.
next year's report should be more
resulted in a longer report. The Ex
that the secretariat would c
improvements on the report, i
concise and with useful analyses.

207. Regarding the report's reflec
lessons learned from implementa
MTP and the implications of thos
the MTSP, delegations underline
following in the MTSP: a greater
the organizational priorities; bett
measurable objectives; and a more
evaluation function. Delegatio
support for the treatment of the ab
in the report. The Executive
examples of how UNICEF wa
evaluation capacity, such as in t
justice and trafficking.

208. Many delegations express
stagnation of UNICEF regular r
response, the Executive Director
should report back to their capitals
explained that it was not simply a
but of ensuring a balance as c
UNICEF to achieve more for are
received little or no other resour
balance would also ensure a m
resources. There was, she added
how to address the lack of regular

209. Several speakers commented
to address more clearly and syste
and constraints faced by UNICEF
of the MTP. It was also important f
more clearly and candidly the lesso
overcome those obstacles and cons
Director replied that the MTSP wo
focus on some of the constraints an

210. There was widespread su
members for the rights-based ap

delegation requested a clearer definition of the concept. The emphasis on reaching the poorest and most excluded was also broadly applauded. UNICEF efforts to pursue results-based management more systematically also met with the approval of many delegations. However, the weaknesses of the current MTP were acknowledged as a source of some of the difficulties in achieving the full promise of results-based management. In response, the Executive Director said that the rights-based approach had been detailed earlier at the 1999 annual session, and that the new MTSP would provide a clearer picture.

211. UNICEF efforts to embrace a wider range of partnerships, including non-traditional partners and new partnership mechanisms such as SWAPs, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Common Country Assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (CCAs/UNDAFs) were also supported. While stating that the annual report did not adequately reflect UNICEF interactions with PRSPs, the Executive Director said that UNICEF had been involved in almost all 24 countries and looked for opportunities for more interaction. It was clear, she said, that CCAs were critical to having a good UNDAF or PRSP.

212. Several speakers suggested that the format of the next annual report should be a subject of debate at or before the next session of the Board since it would be both the last annual report on the current MTP and the first annual report to appear during the next medium-term planning period.

213. Expressing appreciation for the useful interventions, the Executive Director responded briefly to some of the other issues/concerns raised. While acknowledging that two thirds of UNICEF income still came from Governments, she said that UNICEF had a long history of private sector funding through its National Committees. The organization was moving forward in its efforts to strengthen relations with the Committees in a way that was consistent with its mandate. She also remarked about the useful work of the Private Sector Task Force, especially with National Committees. Regarding the set-aside, only small amounts had been used, such as for HIV/AIDS, vaccines and polio eradication, in accordance with the funding formula and in partnership with others.

214. The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the comments on coordination in HIV/AIDS and theme groups. This activity was critical, and as a global issue, would be key overarching areas in the MTSP. She acknowledged that UNICEF had to do more in the area of maternal mortality and morbidity as progress was lagging. Some of the approaches had not been particularly successful or useful, such as the training of traditional birth attendants. She stressed the importance of essential obstetric care. In the area of water and environmental sanitation (WES), the Executive Director explained that UNICEF had shifted its support from the hardware side to software (i.e. hygiene education, sanitation, etc.), which might account for the decline in expenditure. She assured delegations that UNICEF would be able to strengthen its work in this area despite resource constraints. With regard to questions about UNICEF support for emergencies, the Executive Director recalled that since much of UNICEF work was done in unstable environments, many of the emergency interventions had been mainstreamed into the regular country programmes.

B. Summary of mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes

Introduction

215. The Director, Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning, provided a brief overview of two dimensions of UNICEF work in monitoring and evaluation. First, regarding efforts to enhance the evaluation capacity of UNICEF, he reported that a Panel of Peers responsible for examining the evaluation system had noted the benefits of its decentralized system, in particular how such an approach reflected the diversity and richness of UNICEF work, and was pleased to see the UNICEF culture of evaluation and efforts to strengthen performance management and institutional learning. However, the Panel saw a need for UNICEF to make better use of its evaluation function for decision-making for strategic management. In response, the Office of Evaluation had prepared an evaluation capacity framework, which aimed at using evaluation more strategically by raising the focus of corporate attention from activity (project) level to programme and policy levels. The Director summarized the four key areas of high-yield impact identified for the systemic enhancement of the evaluation function within UNICEF.

216. Second, concerning the substantive focus of the MTRs and major evaluations of country programmes,

the Director noted that the reports presented a wide cross-section of evaluative activity at regional country programme, project and activity levels, covering both topical and thematic areas of UNICEF programming. He reported on the types of evaluations undertaken as well as on the evaluative techniques employed. Having benefited from the reviews of progress made over the decade in achieving the goals set by the World Summit for Children, the MTRs and major evaluations provided an excellent baseline for assessing progress in the third millennium. The summaries showed how relevant and useful these exercises were in identifying results achieved and lessons learned, leading to adjustments in programming.

Eastern and Southern Africa

217. The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa introduced the report on MTRs and major evaluations conducted in the region during 2000 (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.50). Since there was only one MTR conducted during the reporting period (Comoros), which was well-summarized in the document, he focused his presentation on evaluation studies of UNICEF-supported HIV/AIDS programmes and projects.

218. He noted that the evaluations showed that information, education and communication (IEC) activities at the national level alone had proven ineffective in AIDS prevention and control. He stressed that IEC must be combined with strong community mobilization efforts in order to make a difference as HIV/AIDS control was not just about "behaviour change". It involved, in particular, changing practices and providing new life skills opportunities, particularly for girls and women. He also highlighted regional experiences in various areas. It was now clear, he said, that promises of resources, although welcome, were not reaching the people and communities — and that situation had to change.

219. All of the speakers addressing this presentation and report expressed appreciation for the Regional Director's statement highlighting the continuing challenge of HIV/AIDS. Two delegations wanted to know how pilot projects would be scaled up. The Regional Director explained that the pilot projects were not planned to be taken to scale, but to test concepts and, therefore, were essentially research-oriented. UNICEF was working within the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to develop large-scale projects.

220. One speaker expressed concern about the cost-effectiveness and replicability of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) prevention projects. Another delegation noted the weaknesses of qualitative evaluation and lack of information on results achieved, to which the Regional Director responded that supportive documentation was available.

221. One speaker recalled that as HIV/AIDS would be one of the key priorities of the MTSP, the lessons learned should be used to develop goals, targets and strategies.

222. Some delegations were critical of the Zimbabwe life skills project, which was said to have been developed without the required level of consultation with communities. The need to create effective social safety nets was also emphasized. Many delegations strongly supported the community-based approach to the AIDS orphans crisis. One speaker suggested the extensive use of interactive media for social mobilization. The Regional Director confirmed that this strategy was being implemented in many countries of the region. He added that based on the 77 evaluations reviewed, there were five aspects of the HIV/AIDS problem that needed to be addressed simultaneously in a particular community or district: breaking the silence; the prevention of MTCT; prevention among youth; care for AIDS orphans; and care for other vulnerable children.

West and Central Africa

223. The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the report, contained in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.51. She noted that poverty remained the primary obstacle to economic and social progress in the region, and was the greatest impediment to the survival, development and protection of children. Peace, security and democracy were compromised by armed conflict, political instability and financial dependence, a situation that required more rapid and effective interventions.

224. Despite widespread problems, however, there were positive developments. For example, most countries had submitted a first report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and national follow-up mechanisms were being established. Partnerships with Governments, NGOs and civil society were also being expanded. The MTRs had revealed two problems that necessitated partial programme reformulation: the spread of HIV/AIDS; and the impact of malaria on under-five

mortality rates (U5MRs). Emergency preparedness continued to be a growing necessity for the region.

225. The Regional Director described several findings, including the need for programme flexibility as well as recognition and reinforcement of the role of women in decision-making. She also noted that child and youth participation were crucial to attain appropriate behavioural change. She concluded by stating that the Global Movement for Children was becoming an active force, the latest illustration of this being at the Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children, held in Cairo from 28 to 31 May 2001.

226. One delegation noted that the reviews varied in quality and depth. Another speaker appreciated the analysis of objectives and obstacles, but expressed concern that in spite of progress being made, there was a sense that the region was regressing in many areas. At least two delegations noted the increasing mortality rates for children and women, and encouraged greater UNICEF involvement in reproductive health for both women and youth. Several delegations highlighted the increase in the number of cases of child trafficking in the region, and asked to what extent UNICEF country programmes could address this violation of child rights. The Regional Director agreed that UNICEF needed to be more efficient and effective in delivering assistance to the region. She concurred that mortality rates were, in fact, worsening in the region. She also acknowledged the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region and its devastating consequences.

227. Debt relief was also addressed. One delegation stressed the importance of UNICEF cooperation in this area, in particular participation in PRSPs and other mechanisms to help Governments qualify as Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs). Another delegation informed the Board that his Government was earmarking 1 billion euros for health and education debt relief in African countries. In response, the Regional Director reported that UNICEF had just participated in a meeting, organized by the World Bank, on the PRSP and on how to increase support to the social sectors. One delegation noted with satisfaction better vaccine forecasting, in collaboration with the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen.

228. Regarding the MTR for *Cameroon*, one delegation voiced serious concern that measles was the cause of so many infant deaths. Clarification was sought on whether this was an indication of inadequate financial resources or institutional weakness, since vaccines were available. Another delegation noted that while the country had experienced financial difficulties, it had considerable human resources. The Regional Director acknowledged that human resources were available in Cameroon, but not always where they were needed most. In addition, supervision, monitoring and evaluation were weak. There was also a lack of community involvement and partnerships with NGOs, and interventions were too vertical. Regarding *Guinea-Bissau*, the achievements made in spite of significant challenges were acknowledged.

229. A number of delegations appreciated the role that UNICEF had played in health services in *Mali*. However, one speaker remarked that the document did not provide information on the status of the Bamako Initiative, immunization efforts or U5MR. Another delegation deplored the decreasing number of health care specialists at the country level. A request was made for more recent figures on HIV/AIDS, as those in the document were 10 years old. Additional information was also requested on the role of NGOs and civil society in the realization of country programme objectives. Clarification was also sought on strikes by health personnel that the document reported had taken place since 1997.

230. With regard to child health specialists in Mali, the Regional Director assured delegations that the expertise was still available, but a lack of funding might have caused some shortfalls. She stated that although child trafficking continued to be a problem in the region, a victory of sorts had been won, because the issue was being discussed more openly with Governments, local communities and NGOs. Discussions at the subregional level had taken place with ministers of social welfare and labour, and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali had signed memoranda of understanding to tackle this problem. A meeting of government officials from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali would take place in July 2001 to further discuss coordination of efforts. Responding to the issue of debt relief, she confirmed that strikes had taken place in Mali which had affected immunization activities, but that the situation had been resolved.

The Americas and Caribbean

231. The Regional Director introduced the report contained in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.52 and gave a brief overview of the MTR for the multi-country

programme for the Eastern Caribbean and of three major evaluations of UNICEF rights-based programmes in the region: implementation of rights programming in Brazil, Costa Rica and Venezuela; the Brazilian Statute of the Child and the Adolescent; and the Amazon subregional programme for social action.

232. Covering 11 island countries and Suriname, the multi-country programme provided UNICEF with an opportunity to measure the impact of innovative and participatory approaches to some of the most sensitive issues in the Caribbean, the most important of which was HIV/AIDS and the potentially devastating impact it could have if left unchecked. The MTR also yielded valuable information on how UNICEF could manage programmes on a subregional level, coordinating the actions for several countries from one central location. Regarding the three evaluations, the Regional Director said that they illustrated how multi-year, multisectoral efforts were translating rights concepts into on-the-ground programming. He also reported on some of the similar themes that emerged despite the differences in programme scale and national settings examined.

233. With regard to the *multi-country programme for the Eastern Caribbean*, one delegation noted with satisfaction that most countries had achieved the World Summit goals. She commended the focus on the education of drop outs and efforts to develop appropriate and useful education systems. The delegation also welcomed the emphasis on HIV/AIDS, an area of major focus for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as well, and expressed the hope that her Government and UNICEF could collaborate in strengthening NGOs whose focus was youth and family health education. She also urged that strong HIV/AIDS education and prevention components be included in UNICEF health and community life promotion programmes, and that UNICEF follow up on its training of journalists on health issues. With regard to the training of journalists, the Regional Director said that UNICEF was expanding the social communication components in the Eastern Caribbean and sought to work using a horizontal approach.

234. The same delegation noted that in Brazil, UNICEF could increase its efforts in HIV/AIDS, especially in education policy; encourage other United Nations agencies to work on HIV/AIDS prevention; and cooperate in strengthening the capacity of NGOs that assist HIV/AIDS orphans and other children affected by the pandemic. The Regional Director agreed that HIV/AIDS was one of the major concerns of the region, adding that a multi-country initiative for the subregion would be presented to the Board at its second regular session of 2001 which would address the need of young people to be informed about HIV/AIDS and sexuality. UNICEF would work in collaboration with its UNAIDS partners, as well as with bilateral organizations and NGOs, in particular with regard to the 16- to 24-year-old age group. Concerning HIV/AIDS orphans in Brazil, he reported that UNICEF worked within a partnership called *Criança Esperança* (Child Hope). He noted that the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Brazilian Statute, in which UNICEF participated, had been an inspiration and source of learning for the organization.

235. Several delegations welcomed the UNICEF focus on rights programming in the region. One delegation noted that local ownership made programmes more interactive, intersectoral and holistic, and stressed that UNICEF needed to help strengthen national commitment, support progressive social policies of equity and universality, advocate for increased social expenditures, educate the public of their rights, and support organizations that worked for child rights. He questioned how lessons learned in the region could be applied in other regions, and how management was tackling the issue of capacity-building of UNICEF staff for more effective implementation of the rights-based approach. Concerning how to build on lessons learned, the Regional Director stated that a report had been prepared to be shared with other regions. On the question of management strategies to increase the capacity of staff in rights-based programming, he said that most staff members in the region had been undergoing extensive training and reorientation, and that the country programme recommendations being presented to the Board at its second regular session of 2001 reflected intensive efforts in the region to ensure that all country offices understood the fundamental shift to programming with a rights perspective.

236. One delegation highlighted Brazil's experience in the implementation of the Brazilian Statute of the Child and the Adolescent. In July 1999, to mark the Statute's tenth year, executive, legislative and judicial authorities, as well as members of civil society, participated in a debate on progress made and remaining challenges. In the past 10 years, most goals of the World Summit for Children had been achieved,

yet some areas, such as transition towards a more democratic policy-making process, required further support. The country would need to close the gap between law and institutional practice, and harmonize different viewpoints of the various actors. Another delegation noted the importance of the rights approach in Brazil given the large number of street children.

East Asia and the Pacific

237. The Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific presented the results of the MTR of the Papua New Guinea country programme and the end-of-cycle evaluations for China and Myanmar. She also provided an overview of the other major evaluations/assessments carried out in the region in 2000, as summarized in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.53. She focused mainly on the end-decade assessment exercise that was completed by almost all of the countries in the region in 2000, and in the context of which eight countries conducted multiple indicator cluster surveys or other special surveys to complement information obtained from routine sources. Various other national surveys provided additional information to strengthen the end-decade assessments.

238. In many countries, the end-decade review process was broad-based and involved children and NGOs. She said that the region as a whole achieved good but mixed results on the major World Summit goals at the end of the decade. The lack of more progress in more of the goals demonstrated the interlinkages between the goals, and the need for better intersectoral coordination and a more concerted effort to end discrimination against girls. Concerning Papua New Guinea, the MTR had helped to clarify areas that required further sharpening and change.

239. Four delegations commented, all of whom welcomed the evaluation reports. While expressing appreciation for the summaries, one delegation found them of varied quality and wished to have access to the full evaluation reports in future. The same delegation also wanted to see more references to all development players in the reports.

240. On *Papua New Guinea*, one delegation quoted a World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) report which said that security continued to be poor and had not improved as stated in the UNICEF report. He wanted to know why UNICEF thought the situation had improved. Another speaker asked about how UNICEF activities fit into the Government's development plan, and reiterated an invitation to UNICEF to send high-level representation to a donors' meeting on 8 June in Port Moresby. The Regional Director stated that clearly the security situation still left much to be desired, but that the situation had improved with the new Government in power. An effort had been made to establish priorities, improve coordination and build donor confidence. She assured delegations that UNICEF programmes were in line with government priorities. She declined to comment on the World Bank/IMF report, which she had not seen. The full MTR report would be shared with the delegation that requested it. In addition, the Regional Director pointed out that new posts had been created for the country office which would strengthen programme delivery.

241. On the end-of-cycle evaluation of the China education programme, one delegation commented that the programme was spread too thinly for effective management and adequate monitoring of inputs and results. He queried whether UNICEF would follow the recommendation of the evaluation to narrow the focus. The Regional Director concurred with the comment, adding that the new programme had followed the recommendation of the evaluation.

242. A speaker welcomed the assessment of the early childhood care (ECC) project in Viet Nam, which aimed to foster community planning and adjust to local needs. Both aspects were important to development, and the speaker wondered if ECC programmes would be scaled up in the region. The Regional Director responded that the assessment, undertaken to establish the baseline situation in two diverse provinces in Viet Nam in preparation for expansion of the comprehensive ECC project during 2001-2005, had helped to improve the focus of the strategy. Clearly, ECC was a priority in the region, but details on scaling up throughout the region were not yet available.

South Asia

243. The Regional Director for South Asia presented a summary of the MTRs undertaken in India and Maldives, together with a review of five major evaluations (three linked to basic education and two to diarrhoea management and hygiene practices), conducted in the region during 2000 and early 2001, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.54.

244. Concerning the India MTR, he mentioned the areas that needed increased attention, including

geographic and gender disparities, the 0- to 3-year-old age group, HIV/AIDS, basic education, routine immunization and long-term disaster preparedness and emergency response. Overall, the India MTR pointed to the need for UNICEF and the Government of India to work together to define and focus more precisely the programmatic role of UNICEF and the strategic allocation of its limited human and financial resources to ensure optimum impact and measurable outcomes. Regarding the Maldives MTR, the Regional Director noted the existing challenges in undernutrition, and the main challenge in basic education of equitable access to good quality learning opportunities. He also said that in view of the growing number of cases of child abuse, UNICEF would continue to support practical protective measures for children.

245. The evaluations of the oral rehydration therapy (ORT) communication campaign in Bangladesh and the hygiene and sanitation project in Eastern Nepal highlighted the impact of a school-focused communication strategy and the involvement of schoolteachers in achieving widespread message coverage, knowledge and behaviour change among people in Bangladesh; and reinforced the conviction that a decentralized strategy was appropriate for Nepal. Two other evaluations undertaken in Bangladesh — the basic education for hard-to-reach urban children project and the Intensive District Approach to Education for All (IDEAL) project — were seen as having overly ambitious time frames for expansion which had to be scaled back to take into account necessary mid-course corrections. The evaluation of the UNICEF contribution to the Education for All (EFA) assessment in South Asia concluded that UNICEF support should focus on the provision of technical capacity in the areas of achievement assessment and education database development.

246. On a general note, one delegation was interested in how the agencies were all working together in South Asia. The Regional Director said that UNICEF involved others in strategy development and collaborated at the subnational level with the World Bank and bilateral agencies.

247. During the discussion of the *India* MTR, several delegations cited the difficulty of attributing results, especially when objectives were set at a highly aggregate or generic level, as wide as those of the Government itself. UNICEF objectives needed to be set at a level — for example, at output or outcome level — where it was possible to attribute results that were measurable on a long- and short-term basis. Also on this point, a delegation noted that UNICEF was a small actor in the social sectors in India, contributing a fraction of the amount that the Government invested in the same sectors. It was, therefore, important that attribution was set at the right level; it was also important to involve a range of partners which, together, would contribute to a critical mass and to synergies that would lead to optimal results. In addition, if the levels of international development cooperation provided were less than required, the capacity of the Government to invest more would be strained. Sustainable, tangible results could only be attained if foreign investments in developing countries for programmes benefiting children were increased. In response, the Regional Director agreed that results should be presented at the output/outcome level and not at the aggregate goal level. He also agreed that UNICEF programmes should be more modest.

248. Stating that USAID and UNICEF interventions were complementary and mutually reinforcing, one speaker also applauded the progress made in school enrolment as well as in linking education efforts and HIV/AIDS prevention. The same delegation commented that despite UNICEF efforts in prenatal care, the maternal mortality ratio remained unacceptably high. Similarly, despite progress towards polio eradication and the link between vitamin A and polio vaccine, it was clear that routine immunization had to be reinforced. One delegation called for more support to NGOs and community groups in the WES sector, and asked for clarification on how UNICEF was implementing the rights-based approach. Concern was expressed about the slow implementation and expenditure in the section of the India programme supported by one delegation's Government.

249. The Regional Director replied that there was good synergy with UNAIDS. UNICEF had been working with children both in and out of school, and gender equity was an important priority throughout the programme and in the region more broadly. Increasingly, UNICEF was moving towards decentralized community action throughout the region to ensure women's participation. He noted the slow progress in the vaccination programme in India, and recognized that national immunization days had absorbed both human and financial resources. As a result, UNICEF was strengthening district-level management, cold-chain maintenance and social

mobilization, involving the local business community through members of Rotary. On WES, the Regional Director said that UNICEF would also continue to focus on the increasing problems of water access and quality. As for the rights-based approach, it was a work in progress that was being articulated with increasing clarity.

250. Commenting on the *Maldives* MTR, more precisely on the child abuse problem, one delegation asked if, as a practical measure to address violence, UNICEF was considering training teachers to recognize abused children. The Regional Director took note of the comments on Maldives, adding that so far, skills training for teachers on managing child abuse in the community had not been considered, but could possibly be linked to the 22 schools initiative, which had a strong community development component.

251. Commenting on the Bangladesh evaluations, one delegation pointed out that despite progress, some 10 per cent of all children — about 2 million — never enrolled in school. Many of them worked in the informal sectors and needed special attention. However, slow mobilization of resources by UNICEF and complicated procurement procedures had led to slow programme implementation.

252. On the evaluation of the ORT communication campaign in Bangladesh, one delegation observed that such campaigns for children 0-5 years old had been ongoing since 1997. It was now time for old campaign messages to be reformulated, new health workers to be trained and new campaign material to be supplied.

253. On the evaluation of the basic education for hard-to-reach urban children project in Bangladesh, a speaker noted that the programme represented a new effort for collaboration with NGOs and asked what the Government of Bangladesh thought of this approach. Another delegation referred to the grave issues raised by the evaluation, including the ambitious time line and costs, and concluded that the programme should be redesigned. The Regional Director agreed that there was a need to support capacity development of government managers, remodel management approaches, review cost calculations and make the programme implementation schedule more realistic.

254. On the EFA assessment, the Regional Director reiterated that girls' education was a priority for UNICEF in the region and suggested that prioritization would include addressing community involvement in school management, improved teaching/learning processes, contributing to better learning outcomes and the capacity to assess learning achievement.

255. Regarding the rates of implementation and expenditure in India and Bangladesh, the Regional Director noted that they had improved markedly in the last few years, especially in Bangladesh.

Middle East and North Africa

256. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa introduced the report contained in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.55. He stated that the MTR for Jordan confirmed the achievements in most child indicators, as well as a shift from vertical programmes to a greater emphasis on rights-based, integrated approaches; quality basic services; and greater use of the enormous potential offered by adolescents and young people. The role of UNICEF in Jordan had been catalytic in providing support to developing systems and tools for addressing domestic violence, detecting childhood disabilities and promoting community-based rehabilitation of disabled children. The MTR also addressed the constraints and weaknesses found in the current country programme, which would be taken into account in the preparation of the next programme of cooperation.

257. The Regional Director commented on the 10-year review undertaken in Iraq, which reaffirmed that UNICEF programmes of cooperation had been crucial in helping to arrest the decline and improve the situation of children and women, especially in a period of deteriorating basic social services. He continued his presentation by illustrating how evaluation and research were applied to UNICEF programmes, exemplified by experiences in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and Tunisia.

258. One delegation noted with appreciation that the objectives of the UNICEF programme in *Jordan* were complementary to those of his Government's bilateral programme of assistance. He said that Jordan had made impressive progress with regard to child indicators and expressed his Government's support for the MTR recommendations, including a reduction in the number of projects and a focus on sustaining and monitoring national goals for children. He noted with concern, however, the absence of an HIV/AIDS component in the health and education sector, as well as a lack of reporting on coordination with other donors and on other collaborative activities.

259. Another delegation stressed the importance of programmes formulated at the national level, in which UNICEF played a significant role by introducing innovative methods to achieve national and global targets. Evaluation results indicated that the success of projects depended on the level of their conformity to national needs and priorities, as well as expanded coordination with pertinent government authorities, to ensure maximum utilization of all available resources and capacity, including those of NGOs.

260. The Regional Director thanked delegations for their statements recognizing the positive role that UNICEF had played in cooperation with national authorities and civil society. He affirmed that HIV/AIDS was being addressed as an emerging issue, not only in the new programme of cooperation in Jordan, but also throughout the region. The new country programmes would include strategies to educate and equip young people and children to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He assured delegations that collaboration and coordination with other donors and agencies was taken seriously and would be reinforced in the new programmes of cooperation being developed for the region.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

261. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States presented the report for the region (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.56). While none of the country programmes in the region had conducted an MTR in 2000, he explained that during the course of the current programmes of cooperation, more than 80 reviews/evaluations were under way or being planned. Many of them addressed issues of emerging concern for Governments and UNICEF, including the deterioration of immunization support systems, declines in education attendance and increased drop-out rates, and a significant collapse in the provision of pre-school care. The Regional Director added that although not formal MTRs, a number of country offices with short-duration programme cycles had carried out reviews of the programming progress in order to inform the development of the next programme cycle. In conclusion, he touched briefly on the Intergovernmental Conference held in Berlin in May 2001 at which 51 young people from 25 countries in the region spoke about issues affecting their lives.

262. One delegation, speaking about the situation in Ukraine, noted that while the report provided a picture of results and lessons learned, it also enabled his country to correct and adjust its own country programme. Opportunities existed to provide more data through major global monitoring activities, in particular through national monitoring of how the World Summit for Children goals were being implemented. The delegation spoke about the situation of the children and women in his country, expressing particular concern about the situation of the young, especially the handicapped and orphans, as well as young families with children, and the network of social centres established which focused on prevention activities and the development of volunteer movements involving the young.

263. While noting the very effective activities of the country programme for 2001-2002, the same speaker expressed regret that all of the programmes, in particular the young people's health and development programme, were not implemented due to insufficient funding. In addition to developing strategies that could improve the situation of young people in his country, including those in institutions, the handicapped, street children and those still suffering the effects of the Chernobyl accident, it was hoped that UNICEF would remain active in providing technical and financial assistance to help eliminate iodine deficiency in children. The speaker said that there was also an urgent need to implement joint projects on HIV/AIDS.

264. In response, the Regional Director noted the importance of national monitoring, and acknowledged that all the countries in the region had completed their end-decade reports, and all but one had submitted their reports. There had been a region-wide response to reviewing progress towards the end-decade goals. In terms of the development of the UNICEF MTSP, in addition to focusing on national data monitoring, UNICEF would also consider the question of youth participation and decision-making to be a vital one. As a region with low access to iodized salt, the Regional Director reaffirmed that the challenge of iodine deficiency was one that UNICEF would like to assist Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations to overcome.

265. Another delegation referred to the evaluation of the family education component of the Romania country programme. Welcoming the structure of the presentation in terms of constraints and lessons

learned, it was considered to be a very useful exercise in terms of identifying areas where future actions were required. UNICEF was encouraged to continue its valuable work in this area, and the same speaker also welcomed the focus on future actions to improve pre-school education. It was felt that particular attention should be given to designing projects, in cooperation with local partners, that benefited rural children, as well as those which would have an increased impact on Roma community education and development. The increased focus on involving children and adolescents in projects for health education and promotion was also welcomed. The Regional Director welcomed the comments on need to have an increased focus on children in rural areas, as well as on the Roma population. He stressed that reducing regional disparities, including between rural and urban areas, was an important issue.

Office for Europe

266. The Regional Director for Europe outlined some of the achievements of the past year in the region. First, he noted the substantial impetus for progress in the relationship between UNICEF, and European Governments and civil society provided by the Global Movement for Children and, in connection with it, preparations for the Special Session on Children. He reported on a consultation on children for Europe and Central Asia that took place in Berlin in May 2001 which involved the participation of 52 countries. The outcome of the consultation was the "Berlin Commitment", a statement of intent to give higher priority to ensure that all children's rights were fully met in Europe and Central Asia. It was hoped that this would represent a substantive contribution to the Special Session. There was strong and widespread consensus that the active involvement of young people as resource persons had significantly increased the quality of the consultation.

267. Secondly, the Regional Director spoke about the progress that had been made in professionalizing the relationship between UNICEF and its National Committees. The Joint Planning Process had been completed or was under way in 30 of the 37 National Committees, and the quality of the process and product continued to improve in a more strategic direction. He said that the Standing Group of National Committees was playing an increasingly important role and was becoming progressively more integrated within the major internal management processes of UNICEF. He also mentioned the creation of new formal as well as informal NGO networks built around the Global Movement for Children and the "Say Yes" campaign.

268. Thirdly, he addressed the enhanced partnerships with key European institutions, in particular the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The challenge, he concluded, was to accelerate the momentum and build on opportunities during the months and years ahead.

C. Ensuring children's rights in Africa

269. In his oral presentation on this agenda item, the Director, Programme Division, recalled that six years ago, the Executive Board, in its decision 1995/18 (E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1), reaffirmed "its strong and consistent commitment to Africa as the region of greatest need and highest priority". The same decision requested the Executive Director to develop specific strategies for translating this priority into concrete actions, and since then, two reports had been submitted to the attention of the Board. This presentation was intended to update that information and to seek the guidance and support of the Board for future action.

270. He reported that the indicators suggested small gains in some areas, including the near eradication of guinea worm disease; good progress in polio eradication; and significant gains in the consumption of iodized salt and vitamin A supplementation, and in the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies. However, the same did not hold true for protein-energy malnutrition and malnutrition rates. During the decade, sub-Saharan Africa maintained the highest U5MRs of all regions. Moreover, on the immunization front, the gains of the beginning of the decade continued to slide, with the average coverage rate in sub-Saharan Africa in 1999 of less than 50 per cent compared to 74 per cent globally. Measles was endemic in many countries of the region, and meningitis and yellow fever continued to threaten the health and lives of many young African children. The Director also reported that while the 6 percentage point change in school enrolment rates showed commendable progress made during the decade compared to other regions, in sub-Saharan Africa, in fact, 40 per cent of school-aged children did not attend school.

271. In the 1999 report to the Board (E/ICEF/1999/12), clear sets of overall priorities had been established for sub-Saharan Africa. These priorities included the revitalization of health systems; improving access to quality basic education, especially for girls; controlling HIV/AIDS; intensifying efforts to control malaria; improving preparedness and response to situations of crisis; piloting the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Initiative in at least 20 countries; and increasing its emphasis on identifying the causes of major forms of violence against children and women.

272. The Director said that high priority was given to the survival of children and to improvements in maternal and child health, centred around the Bamako Initiative for the revitalization of health systems and community participation. Implemented in 13 countries, the Bamako Initiative had improved the quality of services and access to a basic health care package in 7,000 health centres; and some countries had been able to go to scale. However, the quality of care and coverage were not as high as expected, with problems of availability of staff, money and support capacity at the central level. To address those challenges, UNICEF sought the collaboration of other partners as part of health sector reform programmes in 11 countries. The introduction of IMCI had provided some additional means of improving the quality of services at the facility level, and the Initiative had been able to support the introduction of appropriate drugs as part of national health policies.

273. Within the framework of the Roll Back Malaria programme, UNICEF, along with WHO, had contributed directly to finalizing and launching national malaria strategic plans in 22 countries, 6 of which were going to scale in implementing insecticide-treated net programmes. Taxes and tariffs had been eliminated in six countries, thus lowering the cost of the insecticide-treated mosquito nets and making them more affordable to the average family.

274. The highest priority continued to be given to meeting the challenge of controlling HIV/AIDS as a primary threat to securing human rights, and to assisting affected children and women. There were an estimated 2 million deaths in 1999 alone in sub-Saharan Africa, and new infections involving around 3.8 million people. Moreover, an estimated 65 million people from just 19 countries might still die of AIDS-related causes by 2010. In the most severely affected countries, AIDS was reversing decades of investments in health, education and human resources development. Some 70-80 per cent of all AIDS-related deaths had occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, about one quarter of them among children, and orphan populations would continue to grow until at least 2010. In fact, HIV/AIDS was transforming the situation with orphans into a long-term, chronic problem that would extend into the next century. UNICEF efforts focused on: (a) the prevention of HIV transmission among young people through broad-based mobilization, communication and life skills education efforts in school and community settings; and (b) the reduction of MTCT and the provision of a minimum package of services to pregnant women, including voluntary and confidential counselling and testing, access to short-course drugs and support for informed choices in infant feeding. UNICEF action also focused on high-level advocacy for political action.

275. In the area of education, the Director reported that the African Girls' Education Initiative, in partnership with the Government of Norway, had improved girls' access to and completion of primary education. Where this programme was operating, there was an increase in girls' enrolment and a decrease in the gender gap. This Initiative was expanding its support to 31 countries in Africa, including those in the midst of civil conflict. More and more, the UNICEF approach was to support systemic changes and non-formal, innovative alternatives linked to the formal system within the framework of SWAPs. Despite the relative successes in the education sector, however, 44 million African children, 23 million of them girls, were presently out of school. The opportunity now existed to take the innovations that had proven their effectiveness at the local level and support their inclusion into national policies in order to afford increased access to all of Africa's children. UNICEF hoped to do this by contributing to policy dialogue and policy formulation at the national level in the context of the Millennium Goals and in collaboration with SWAPs and PRSPs in each country, as appropriate.

276. He explained how UNICEF had strengthened its capacity at country and regional levels. Preparedness and response to situations of instability and crisis were becoming increasingly integrated in the regular country programming process. UNICEF core commitments were firmly in place, which provided a programmatic focus and ensured that logistical, operational and

security (including telecommunications) were also in place. Regional procurement and warehousing capacity had also been strengthened.

277. Regarding resource allocations, at present, 42 per cent of UNICEF international Professional staff were assigned to Africa. It was projected that UNICEF would have increased regular resources allocations to Africa to 45.8 per cent by 2002.

278. Today, the average income per capita in Africa was lower than at the end of the 1960s, and the region contained a growing share of the world's absolute poor. High debt and debt service added to the problem, deterring private investment and absorbing core budget resources, making Governments ever more cash poor. These problems were widely recognized, and a consensus had emerged that the primary goal of aid should be to reduce poverty, but paradoxically, aid transfers were declining just when many of the problems were being addressed.

279. In addressing emergencies, the Director said that, excluding wars of independence, 20 African countries had experienced at least one period of civil strife since 1960. Civil conflict carried huge direct and indirect costs, including loss of life, the destruction of physical infrastructure (e.g. hospitals, schools and clinics), the loss of institutional capacity, and flight of expertise and capital. Moreover, conflict not only ravaged the country in which it occurred, but also imposed heavy economic and social costs on neighbouring countries by generating refugees, increasing military spending, and reducing trade and investment. Almost all conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa used children as active combatants. Some 18 countries had used or were currently using child soldiers, and at least 40 per cent of the world's 300,000 child soldiers were found in sub-Saharan Africa.

280. In closing, the Director, Programme Division, said that as the way forward to make Africa fit for children, the subcontinent required sustained partnerships over the course of several generations to help transform the fruits of growth into tangible improvements in the quality of life. UNICEF, for its part, would maintain its policy of first priority to Africa's children in line with previous decisions of the Board, the Millennium Declaration and the draft outcome document entitled "A world fit for children".

281. Delegations commenting on the presentation expressed appreciation to UNICEF for its continuous and tireless efforts to ensure children's rights to survival, development, participation and protection in Africa, and strongly supported the priority given to Africa. They also recognized that there had not been sufficient progress in the region and that investment in children remained crucial.

282. Several delegations drew attention to the fact that greater importance should be accorded to child soldiers and child labour, along with education, HIV/AIDS and child trafficking. It was indicated that child trafficking was, at least in part, fuelled by poverty and poor access to basic social services. A few delegations reported on their countries' ratification of Optional Protocols 138 and 182 on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, respectively. They requested periodic progress reports and discussion on future strategies, as well as the status of funding to combat child labour.

283. Serious concern was also expressed about poverty. It was felt that debt relief should be facilitated so that resources could be directed towards basic social services, development and investment in children. Poverty should be addressed holistically through HIPC, and UNICEF was urged to participate more actively in its implementation as well as in PRSPs. The speaker deplored the continued decline in official development assistance (ODA).

284. A number of delegations deplored the decline in UNICEF regular resources and encouraged Member States to increase their contributions in this area. They also pointed out that there was little progress globally towards the 20/20 Initiative in the region. Most countries invested about 11 per cent of their budgets in basic social services, and the portion of ODA to the same services was still below target.

285. A number of speakers brought attention to the issue of comparative advantage and to improving collaboration with partners. They also mentioned that the issue of child rights needed to be mainstreamed and that the rights of children were not improving, for example, when looking at U5MR. They also called for broader information on girls' education in relation to other partners. The delegations expressed interest in working together with UNICEF in the areas of SWAPs and PRSPs. They further stated that poverty, health, education, nutrition, the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), HIV/AIDS, girls' education and UNICEF work in national plans should be fully reflected in the MTSP.

286. A majority of the delegations also expressed the hope that the lessons learned would inform the draft outcome document and action plan so as to ensure that "we get it right the second time".

287. The Director, Programme Division, thanked delegations for their very valuable comments and analyses. The interventions also underscored the need for continuing to accord priority to Africa and the importance of decisive, meaningful and results-bearing initiatives. This, he said, would require unphased dedication and greatest efforts on the part of Africans themselves, as well as of their partners, to complement that effort.

288. For its part, UNICEF would maintain its policy of a first priority to Africa's children in line with the decisions of the Board and the mandates that have come within the United Nations system. In particular, emphasis would be accorded in the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as to emergency preparedness and response, and in support of children in armed conflict. He stressed the importance of ensuring access to and completion of quality primary education, especially for girls; supporting a good start in the lives of African children through immunization and appropriate interventions in environmental sanitation; and focusing on child protection issues. There was a very real need, he added, to accelerate the allocation of adequate resources for children.

289. The Director remarked that a number of interventions also addressed the need for the international community and Africa's partners to create an international environment that was supportive of the measures to stimulate growth and development, reduce poverty and, above all, invest in children. Some delegations also spoke of the need to ensure that the debt burden was not onerous, as it reflected the slow progress in ensuring the rights of Africa's children. In that regard, UNICEF would continue to work with all partners to ensure, through the HIPC Initiative and the PRSP, that deeper, broader and much accelerated progress on this front would be achieved.

290. In response to a question about the link between development and survival and whether the focus on development was an exclusive one, the Director recalled that in his introduction to this agenda item, he stated that a number of priorities transcended the pure survival areas to encompass development and protection. Some of those issues were child trafficking and child labour, especially in western and central Africa, and UNICEF was increasingly involved in supporting efforts in these areas. He stressed the importance of development, especially education, and in particular girl's education, as key to progress and poverty reduction in Africa. The importance of the survival issues stemmed very clearly from the grim pictures that he had spoken about earlier related to infant and under-five mortality rates, which were the highest in Africa while progress on reducing them was the lowest among all continents.

291. The UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa also responded to some of the issues raised by delegations. He mentioned the Organization of African Unity/UNICEF Pan African Forum on the Future of Children in Africa. Many of the views that came out of the discussions at this Board session were included in the final Declaration and Plan of Action of the forum, which emphasized poverty, armed conflict and HIV/AIDS as the three major problems for the large majority of Africans today. On a continent that had both the most serious problems and the slowest progress, actually in some countries, conditions were getting worse.

292. Concerning child soldiers, the Regional Director said that they were found in almost all armies, and national and non-national rebel movements, and provided an example of UNICEF experience in Sudan in getting child soldiers released and airlifted to safe areas. He noted especially the speed with which many local and international NGOs, as well as UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), had provided for their well-being, including registration. UNICEF was now trying to start a process to assist in their return to their home areas.

293. On the subject of UNICEF and HIV/AIDS in Africa, the Regional Director focused his response on the situation in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, which was the most seriously affected. He said that the UNICEF approach to the problem was quite elaborate, based on experience and involved an evidence-based community capacity development approach where "the people knew best". It was the antithesis of a vertical top-down approach and had been successful in many countries in many other areas. Based on looking at 77 evaluations, one of the major findings was that the HIV/AIDS problem could not be divided into different sections. UNICEF had to have community-based, community empowering HIV/AIDS-focused programmes that addressed all related issues, such as MTCT, youth prevention and AIDS orphans, simultaneously.

D. Report on the third session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

294. The third session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA CCH was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 and 20 April 2001. The report of the session, contained in document E/ICEF/2001/11, was introduced by the Committee member from Guyana. She informed Board members that the main issue on the agenda was SWAPs, and that country case reports had been presented by senior government officials from Cambodia and Uganda. The discussion also covered the implications of SWAPs for United Nations agency programmes and operations. The Committee generally agreed that SWAPs contributed to a more coherent framework for partner cooperation and affirmed that United Nations agencies had an important role to play in supporting planning, implementation and monitoring of SWAPs. The documentation and dissemination of good practices were recommended.

295. She reported that the Committee also reviewed progress made in the following areas since the second session of CCH: the reduction of maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity, emphasizing the need to ensure equitable access to quality care and improve the quality of monitoring; adolescent health and development, highlighting the need to involve young people in policy-making; HIV/AIDS, recognizing the progress made with regard to inter-agency initiatives to reduce MTCT; immunization, calling for support to the Polio Eradication Strategic Plan (2001-2005); and implementation of the recommendations on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (Beijing+5), identifying the HIV/AIDS pandemic as the highest priority, especially in Africa and other areas where the epidemic was growing. The need for attention to the rapid growth in HIV infection rates in women, as well as efforts to counteract stigmas and discrimination against all those affected by the disease, were also emphasized.

296. Several delegations stated that CCH was a useful mechanism for the coordination of programmes and policies among WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF. One delegation stressed the importance of coordinating programmes at the country level, commended the Polio Eradication Initiative for its efficient inter-agency coordination mechanism, and called for its extension to other programmes and areas of cooperation.

297. A number of delegations noted that the planned review of the CCH terms of reference would provide an opportunity for UNICEF and its partners to reassess the usefulness and added value of the Committee, as well as its relation to other coordinating mechanisms. One delegation suggested that expansion of the membership of CCH and inclusion of other stakeholders, in particular Governments, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, should be explored. Clarification on the position of UNICEF on these issues was requested.

298. In her address to the Board, the representative of UNFPA emphasized the value of the partnership with UNICEF and WHO, and the importance of coordinating programme processes and policies among the three agencies. She noted that priorities for joint action included reducing HIV/AIDS transmission in young people, strengthening programmatic linkages between maternal and newborn health, improving monitoring of maternal and perinatal health, and eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus through district-based activities. She noted that SWAPs could not be implemented in a blueprint fashion, but could catalyse government ownership, increase donor coordination, and improve management capacity and accountability at the local level.

299. The Executive Director expressed her appreciation for the feedback from delegations. She explained the evolution of CCH, from a forum primarily for technical discussions between WHO and UNICEF to an inter-agency coordinating body, and emphasized that the Committee was one of several existing coordination mechanisms, including the United Nations Development Group.

300. It was noted that the next session of CCH would be held in Geneva during the first half of 2003 (see annex II, decision 2001/8, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

E. UNICEF experience in sector-wide approaches

301. The Director, Programme Division, introduced the report on SWAPs and sector development programmes, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/10. He noted the importance of SWAPs, and described the contribution of UNICEF to SWAP design and formulation, partnerships, cross-sectoral work and supply procurement. He

highlighted lessons learned, including the need for local adaptation, management of transition, financial frameworks and human resources development. The Executive Director added that UNICEF was actively involved in SWAPs. She noted that accountability was an issue in sectoral approaches because reporting on results, which was a Board requirement, could be difficult.

302. Many delegations commented that the report was both informative and useful in highlighting opportunities and challenges in SWAPs and sector development programmes, and that it demonstrated UNICEF contributions to the processes. Some delegations noted, however, that the report could have focused more on poverty reduction. In addition, the challenges and constraints facing UNICEF could have been described more fully. One speaker requested more information on, and analysis of, the organization's experiences with cross-sectoral approaches, and how lessons learned were shared among UNICEF offices and with bilateral donors. The report could also have addressed the link between SWAPs and other UNICEF programme activities.

303. It was noted that the full benefits of SWAPs were realized when financial procedures were fully harmonized and where there was a shift from reliance on United Nations agencies to government ownership. One delegation emphasized that SWAPs were not a method for dispersing resources, but, rather a coordination framework. It was felt that caution should be exercised in countries with weak sectoral development systems because they would have difficulty achieving the objectives of SWAPs; and Governments should not be forced to engage in SWAPs if they were not prepared to do so. It was also noted that SWAPs must be developed within the framework of national policies for poverty reduction and should be linked to the CCA/UNDAF process.

304. One delegation stated that UNICEF participation in SWAPs should not be complementary to the country programme process, but should be the core element in planning. Another delegation expressed disappointment with UNICEF guidelines for SWAPS because they did not provide adequate instructions on how country programmes could be linked to SWAPs.

305. Delegations mentioned a number of areas where UNICEF could be more engaged, including the promotion of child rights, monitoring, technical assistance, basket funding, policy and strategy
development, support to decentr
development, emergencies and
emphasized that the rights of th
considered in SWAPs, and UN
ensure that the priority areas of c
health and education were c
sectoral plans.

306. A number of speakers state
basket funding must be conside
basis to ensure full participatio
SWAPs could offer opportunities
practices on a wider scale. The c
was to ensure that successful pro
fed into national policy and s
Through increased resources to
project experiences could be rep
scale. Since UNICEF had expe
national and decentralized leve
government partners and civi
promote ownership of SWAPs a
their smooth and successful imple

307. Remarking that UNICEF
institution that responded quickly
disasters, a delegation caution
mechanism could hinder this rapid

308. It was important to recogn
offices to build capacity locall
participate effectively in SWAPs.
a SWAPs focal point at headqua
and it was felt that country and
benefit from a similar arrangemen

309. It was noted that the resu
SWAP arrangement were difficul
and the Board would have to t
when attempting to measure U
Delegations endorsed the eff
encouraged a more coordinated a
sister health agencies in the Unite

310. The Executive Director wa
annually on SWAPs. Addition
requested on the implications o
regular resources and other resour

311. In response to a query abo
some differences between using
other resources for a possible p
funding, the Deputy Executiv
Management, Administration and

there was. If UNICEF was to use other resources, donors to other resources would have to give UNICEF their requirements for financial reporting. In that event, there would be no financial reporting from UNICEF for those other resources. There would only be substantive reporting on what activities had taken place.

312. The Director, Programme Division, underscored that UNICEF was very serious about and had been actively involved in SWAPs, perhaps more than any other United Nations agency. One of the issues raised related to the question of funding. The assessment of UNICEF did not indicate that non-participation in basket funds had been a constraint to its participation. Indeed, the manner in which UNICEF had participated in SWAPs, which was fairly comprehensive, had been appreciated by many partners as well as by the countries themselves.

313. Regarding the extent to which UNICEF participation in SWAPs related to poverty reduction and cross-sectoral issues, the Director said that, as the document made clear, UNICEF was involved particularly to ensure that SWAPs provided access to the poorest and to the stakeholders at the grass-roots level, as well as the mechanism that would allow them to do this.

314. He said that there was no contradiction between SWAPs and the UNICEF country programme approach. Indeed, UNICEF found that it was through the early identification of its contribution to the SWAPs in the country programmes and in UNICEF-assisted country programmes that it could ensure greater links and complementarities with the other frameworks for development cooperation at the country level, including UNDAFs, PRSPs, etc.

315. In response to a query about the extent to which UNICEF participated in SWAPs without inputting into the common basket approach, the Director explained that there were different modalities for participation, particularly as regards the manner in which a Government managed the funds. Different partners had different preferences as to whether their contribution would be within the framework of the poor funds or the earmarked funds or the donor management fund. This, however, had not compromised the nature of the SWAPs because they concerned strengthened coordination and policy commitment for the high-priced sectors, such as health and education; reducing fragmentation; promoting national ownership; and enhancing the sustainability of development cooperation. All the various players participated in the design of the SWAPs to clarify their roles. For UNICEF, activities were clearly identified within the annual project plans and, in that context, specific financial inputs were directed in support of these plans, which were also part of the overall annual projects plans of the SWAPs. Thus, UNICEF has been able to specify the nature of results to be expected and ensure that it could report on them in the various ways provided by its frameworks of accountability. The different modalities in the participation in SWAPs allowed for that flexibility, which had been appreciated by all partners within the inter-agency mechanism frameworks.

316. The Director also replied to questions bout the extent to which UNICEF was systematically reviewing experiences, some of the annual reports implications, and the extent to which UNICEF had been able to share successes and modalities across the organization. He said that, as stated in the report, organizational learning and support to country offices were systematized within the organization. Focal points had been established at headquarters, regional and country levels and, thus, information, guidance and lessons learned were shared through continuous interaction among all of the focal points. In addition, in collaboration with regional offices, meetings were organized that brought together country offices to share in-depth analyses of developments in the area of SWAPs. Many partners were invited, and this practice would be continued.

317. On the implications for human resources, the Director said that UNICEF training packages on the human rights-based approach to programming or within the framework of programme guidance included aspects related to how the organization participated in sector investment programmes/SWAPs/PRSPs, as well as how UNICEF worked within the context of CCAs/UNDAFs, emphasizing the link between UNICEF programming and ensuring coherence in broader partnerships. UNICEF would continue to report to the Board on these aspects.

318. The Senior Programme Officer, Programme Division, reported on working in Ghana, and travelling to Zambia to learn about their experience with SWAPs. He mentioned in particular that the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) had suffered through the radical introduction of the SWAPs process, and this observation was also confirmed by a study of the Government of the Netherlands in 1999 warning that radical changes would be detrimental to some of the programmes already ongoing. He also spoke

generally about EPI, PRSPs/SWAPs and coordination (see annex II, decision 2002/11, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

F. UNICEF activities in immunization

319. The report on UNICEF programming to improve immunization services and child health, reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases and eradicate polio, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/9, was introduced by the Chief, Immunization Activities. She highlighted the issues of importance to UNICEF programming in this area, which included: strengthening regular immunization service delivery, including vitamin A supplementation; accelerating disease control activities with a view to meeting global commitments, especially in the areas of polio eradication, the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus, and the reduction of measles mortality; and protection against vaccine-preventable diseases in emergency situations.

320. She explained that the strategic focus of UNICEF programming in this area was to support planning, management, coordination and resource mobilization; improve communication for awareness-raising and demand creation; reach the hardest-to-reach; and ensure vaccine security and immunization safety. She concluded her presentation by highlighting the importance of vaccine security, which is defined as the sustained, uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines of known good quality. She said that UNICEF was working with WHO, developing countries and other partners, including the vaccine industry, to ensure vaccine security. She informed that the secretariat would report to the Board at its first regular session of 2002 on options for action in that area.

321. A number of delegations commended both the report and the work done by UNICEF to review and better define its role and responsibilities in the field of immunization. Board members endorsed the principle of immunization as an organizational priority and as crucial for child health and development, for the realization of the rights of children, and as an area of UNICEF expertise.

322. Many delegations highlighted the importance of strengthening routine immunization services, as well as individual immunization-related initiatives such as polio eradication, maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination, and measles control, within an overall system approach, while retaining an emphasis on the accelerated reduction of child mortality and morbidity. Several speakers remarked about the limited focus on SWAPs in the report, including issues concerning health sector reforms and decentralization.

323. A number of delegations stated that UNICEF had a special responsibility in ensuring national capacity-building to support GAVI efforts. A question was raised about the division of responsibilities between UNICEF and GAVI, in particular with regard to strategy and implementation at the country level. Additional information was requested on the implications for UNICEF programming of GAVI and the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines, in particular, whether the increased focus on immunization was diverting attention and funds away from other programme areas such as education.

324. One delegation inquired whether the agreement between GAVI and UNICEF for the use of UNICEF procurement services and management of the Global Fund covered actual expenditures for providing these services. Another speaker highlighted the importance of placing immunization within a broader context of early childhood development, empowering families and providing support to such programme areas as formal and non-formal education, and water and sanitation.

325. It was noted that use should be made of the infrastructure set in place for the eradication of polio. The need for UNICEF, as a global leader in immunization, to expand its advocacy base at global, regional and country levels, was also highlighted. This included advocating and providing support to deliver the appropriate mix of services to reach the hard-to-reach, a key UNICEF contribution to global public health.

326. The UNICEF Supply Division was encouraged to expand its work in global vaccine security, although it was noted that further expansion into other commodities should be based on expertise and institutional strengths. The global shortage of combination vaccines provided through GAVI and the Global Fund was noted, and it was recommended that UNICEF and other GAVI partners, including the vaccine industry, further explore how to accelerate and improve the availability of these vaccines.

327. In responding to these comments, the Chief, Immunization Activities, explained that system strengthening, sustainability, capacity-building and

assuring child rights by reaching the hard-to-reach were central to UNICEF immunization programming strategies. It was necessary to build immunization service delivery into government budgets at all levels, although funding could be provided by donors. In this respect, improving sustainability could be closely linked to the SWAP process. UNICEF also recognized the need to support activities outside the health sector, especially with civil society, to ensure that all children were protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. This would require, inter alia, expanding advocacy and communication efforts.

328. She further explained that the Governing Board of GAVI made recommendations on the allocation of funds from the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines. These funds were, in principle, provided to Governments, not to UNICEF country programmes, to be used according to plans made by national inter-agency coordinating committees. Each GAVI partner had identified its core areas of competence, thus contributing to the common objectives of the alliance. She noted that UNICEF programming that contributed to these common objectives fell under the supervision of the Executive Board. She further explained that UNICEF had agreed to and received a fee for its role in managing the Global Fund, which covered its costs.

329. The Deputy Director, Supply Division, described the changing market environment in vaccine supply. He stated that the ability of UNICEF to manage vaccine supply through improved long-term forecasting and stable funding was extremely important. The Executive Director expressed her appreciation for the valuable input of delegations. She explained that GAVI was an important addition to global immunization efforts, bringing in new partners and new working relationships. She emphasized that success in reaching the shared objectives of the alliance depended on the activities of all partners. GAVI did not replace, but rather complemented, the activities of UNICEF and WHO in the area of immunization. As stated earlier, the secretariat would come back to the Board with a full assessment of changes in the market in the area of vaccine security (see annex II, decision 2001/9, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

G. Field visits of Executive Board members

Field visit to Romania and the Republic of Moldova

330. The report on the field visit to Romania and the Republic of Moldova from 5 to 17 May 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/CRP.7) was introduced by the team member from the Russian Federation. Team members learned about the problems and needs of the two countries in particular, as well as about the countries in the region in general. It was felt that UNICEF-supported programmes of cooperation complemented in a very effective manner the countries' efforts to protect their children and women, and that the lessons learned could be shared with other countries in similar situations. He provided examples of cooperation between UNICEF and other agencies operating in the two countries, adding that possibilities existed for improvement in this area, especially regarding cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions. The visit also helped the team better understand the spirit of negotiations of upcoming conferences, and he said that there could be even closer cooperation in this area.

331. Emphasis was placed on seeing planned activities in the field, enabling the team to learn about the most promising, effective and cost-efficient programmes. UNICEF was a reliable partner, with a good reputation with donors and highly skilled professional staff. The team was grateful for the assistance of the secretariat, especially the Assistant Secretary of the Board.

332. A speaker from one of the host Governments said that the authorities were happy to receive the Board members. The delegation stressed the priorities and serious commitment of his Government to improving the welfare of children and women. He highlighted the importance of the work of UNICEF, and expressed appreciation for the impact and effectiveness of UNICEF activities as they complemented national efforts.

333. The report noted particularly the attention given to the ongoing reform and support for children in institutions. He also spoke about the restructuring or replacement of institutions and the problems of child abandonment, urging that the focus should be on parents for issues of child care.

334. The same speaker agreed with the need for increased collaboration among sectoral programmes, noting the importance of decentralization, strengthening monitoring, ensuring a reliable database, focusing on

capacity-building, etc. The report, he concluded, provided a useful input for actions.

Field visit to the Gambia and Senegal

335. The team member from Colombia presented an oral report on the field visit to the Gambia and Senegal, which took place from 5 to 17 May 2001. He thanked members of the Governments and the missions in New York, and stated that the group was impressed by the work of UNICEF in both countries. He underscored the importance of relations with local authorities and said that one of the biggest challenges for UNICEF was to create true partnerships. This challenge was being met in both countries, where the group witnessed frank, open and ongoing dialogue on all issues.

336. He remarked that CCA/UNDAF and SWAP mechanisms would enhance constructive relationships. He noted that international NGOs were important partners, but the team had witnessed that, in some cases, these organizations were competitors rather than true partners with UNICEF. As for local NGOs, he reported that they were critical to the work of UNICEF, but at times they appeared to consider UNICEF a donor rather than a partner. He said that UNICEF was a catalyst in putting forward the work of community-based organizations, which was producing positive results. While working at the subnational level was a primary challenge for UNICEF, both country offices were doing a very good job in cooperating with local authorities.

337. In the area of the private sector, the team had seen a range of levels of cooperation, from the very basic to full-fledged partnerships. He said that overall private sector support in both countries was limited, and more avenues needed be explored to ensure more predictable funding.

338. In both the Gambia and Senegal, the group observed UNICEF commitment to United Nations cooperation and coordination, but team members felt that there was room for improvement. In the area of cooperation with donors and the Bretton Woods institutions, delegations had noted a number of parallel programmes and, therefore, streamlining was needed.

339. In the area of humanitarian assistance, the team visited projects that they considered crucial, but that had been mislabelled because they did not fall within the area of "humanitarian or emergency aid". In the area of education, there appeared to be great progress, especially in providing separate sanitation facilities in schools and in working to harmonize Koranic schools with the mainstream education system.

340. He concluded by stating that the field visits were extremely useful, and he highlighted the fact that the experience was enriched by the different views brought by each member of the team. The visit made evident the clear competitive advantage of UNICEF. The presence of Executive Board members was a signal to the people of the Gambia and Senegal that the international community was fully supportive of the work of UNICEF. The group expressed satisfaction with the manner in which UNICEF representatives in the two countries took advantage of the field visit to enhance their relationships with the two Governments and local communities. He thanked UNICEF staff in the field and the Secretary of the Executive Board.

341. A team member, speaking on his own behalf and that of another team member, recommended that UNICEF coordinate more effectively with other donors and the private sector in order to redefine tasks. He noted that some UNICEF-supported projects were outside the mandate of the organization, and that some projects did not focus on mothers and children, but rather on general community development (see annex II, decision 2001/10, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

H. Update on the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001

342. The Executive Director informed the Board that around the world people from all sectors — from high-level government officials to children themselves — had been forming a ground-swell of enthusiasm leading up to the Special Session on Children. She noted that the report of the Secretary-General, "We the Children: End-decade review of follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (A/S-27/3), was a comprehensive, insightful document, drawing on more than 135 national end-decade reviews, as well as on earlier reports to the General Assembly and the UNICEF Executive Board.

343. Many delegations took the occasion to thank the UNICEF secretariat for its extensive work in the preparation of the report and to offer general comments. It was noted that the report provided an honest and open stock-taking; and could serve as a

guide for the outcome document, "A world fit for children". A number of delegations noted that, predictably, the results of the decade had been mixed, but it was clear that the Convention on the Rights of the Child had emerged as the most important standard for child rights.

344. Many speakers felt that the fact that there were 135 national reports reflected not only the viewpoints of Governments, but also the inputs of others engaged in highly participatory and interactive review processes. This had provided what one delegation called a "global mirror of the child". Many delegations highlighted particular features of their own national review processes, including the participation of children. In general, appreciation was expressed for the professional quality of preparatory processes, including UNICEF contributions and the work of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

345. Some speakers expressed concern that a lack of resources was impeding fulfilment of the goals for children, and that the international community had failed in its obligations in terms of ODA in general, and in relation to the percentage of ODA devoted to basic social services in particular. The need to address the problem of additional funding and resources was addressed by many delegations.

346. It was noted that the report had a substantive and conceptual reach, using the evidence-based approach. The resulting balance sheets provided an excellent summary of gains and shortfalls. The report also documented such new problems as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, mental illness and tobacco use. The holistic approach of the report showed the synergy among such issues as the environment, health, hygiene and gender. It emphasized the importance of early childhood, the family and changes in attitude and behaviour.

347. Many delegations stated that there were important lessons in the report, including that advocacy must be accompanied by action; partnerships were essential; investing in health and the social sector was critical for economic growth; the goal-based approach had policy and pragmatic value; and a mixture of vertical and horizontal programming was needed.

348. Some delegations noted that the priority actions for the future were particularly useful. The report should serve as a basis in the preparation of the UNICEF MTSP. It was noted with regret, however, that the report did not broach the issue of children under foreign occupation. It was emphasized that the rights of the child were incomplete if one did not address the right of a people to self-determination.

349. Many delegations spoke of the regional meetings that had been taking place and their very important role in all the preparations leading up to the Special Session, for example, in Belarus, China, Germany and Morocco. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their valuable input and urged them to continue to support the efforts and events leading up to the Special Session.

I. Statement by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association

350. As is the usual practice at the annual session of the Executive Board, the President of the Board invited the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association (GSA) to address the meeting. She announced that she was leaving office, having served two full terms. She mentioned many of the accomplishments of the GSA during her terms, including establishment of the GSA Legal Defense Fund and the GSA National Staff Emergency Fund, expansion of the use of the ombudsperson system, and articulation of a rotation policy for international Professionals. She regretted that staff morale continued to be an area which required more attention. She further noted that more efforts were needed to provide a family-friendly work environment and that career development had not advanced far enough, especially as regards national staff at junior levels.

J. Other matters

Staff safety and security

351. In a statement on staff safety and security, the Executive Director reported that this was a matter of growing concern — and a top priority — for the organization. Although staff members were aware that their work was risky and at times perilous, in recent months and years, deliberate harm was being done to United Nations personnel with greater frequency. What was even more unacceptable was that attacks on United Nations personnel were being carried out with almost total impunity. She said that the primary responsibility of ensuring staff safety lay with Member States as host Governments to maintain law and order within national boundaries.

352. She said that UNICEF had joined with UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP and the United Nations Secretariat in developing cost-sharing proposals consistent with inter-agency collaboration that had been under way in support of the United Nations Security Coordinator. However, security came at a price — as much as $53.2 million for the biennium that begins in 2002. She thanked the Governments that had contributed to the voluntary fund established by the Secretary-General, but noted that UNICEF, an organization with significant field operations, would need to cover costs above the existing security structures.

353. Governments, she insisted, must improve legal recourse for addressing attacks on humanitarian workers; sign and implement the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel; and contribute generously to the United Nations Fund for Security of United Nations Personnel. Security costs must be recognized as a standard budget item. She expressed the hope that Governments would give due recognition to the problem of staff safety and security at the upcoming General Assembly.

354. Two delegations concurred that the primary responsibility for safety of personnel lay with host Governments and parties to conflict, but that everyone must do their utmost. As the United Nations flag was no longer a guarantee of protection, there was a need to strengthen security management systems in the United Nations and improve coordination. Delegations looked forward to hearing about a cost-sharing formula and hoped that it would be just, transparent and simple. They also looked forward to discussing this issue at the second regular session of the Board and in the General Assembly. They asserted that funding for security should not be strictly voluntary.

Staff morale

355. The Executive Director also made a statement on staff morale. She thanked the GSA Chairperson for her presentation and for being an active, strong chair, who had made a difference. She stated that the Chairperson had also been an effective partner in the process leading up to the Special Session, and was helping to energize UNICEF staff.

356. Staff morale, she continued, remained a high priority. She and others were working to make UNICEF more family-friendly and were addressing the issues of maternity leave, adoption and employment opportunities for staff spouses. Meetings were being rescheduled to avoid weekends, and a task force on work life issues had been formed. Mobility between agencies was being addressed, as was HIV/AIDS as a human resources issue. She had extended the mandate of the reference group on staff morale for another year. People skills training at all levels was being offered, as well as negotiating skills training for ombudspersons. She drew the attention of the Board to the Learning Web — on-line learning at UNICEF. Within the regions, she noted that the family-friendly agenda was being expanded.

357. One delegation stated that training was crucial for UNICEF staff, and that the Staff College at Turin would be an important resource. Another delegation said that the responsibility of host Governments and all United Nations members to prosecute crimes against staff was gaining importance. In addition, Governments must respect international conventions. Another delegation requested a briefing at the second regular session of the Board, if possible, on the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on this subject. One delegation requested an examination by the United Nations system and agencies of actual costs of protecting field staff as this information was necessary to make informed decisions.

358. The representative of UNHCR stated that UNICEF played a crucial role at the field level in the provision of assistance to children in refugee operations throughout the world. He noted that inter-agency cooperation was central to humanitarian and peace-building efforts and, in this regard, UNICEF and UNHCR had collaborated successfully in many areas, in particular in the protection of refugee children, the education of refugees, and staff safety and security. He noted that there had also been collaboration in the lead-up to the Special Session on Children.

Small arms and light weapons

359. The Executive Director also made a statement on small arms and light weapons. She said that UNICEF viewed the United Nations Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons as an opportunity to create awareness about the impact of such weapons on the enjoyment of children's rights, as well as to illustrate UNICEF activities in this area. Through its programmatic interventions, global advocacy and policy dialogue, as well as in research, data collection and analysis, UNICEF was engaged in the protection of children from the scourge

of these technologies. UNICEF was very involved at the inter-agency level, both regionally and nationally, through a wide range of initiatives.

360. One delegation applauded the efforts being made in this area. He stated that it was a matter of utmost importance, and that he would be certain, through his delegation's participation at the Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to highlight the role of UNICEF.

National end-decade reviews

361. On a separate matter, one delegation drew the attention of delegations to the national end-decade reviews submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the Special Session on Children. He said that the reports contained very valuable information, and asked the secretariat to consider how this information could be made available to everyone, perhaps at the second regular session of the Board. He suggested that the reports be analysed along the lines of the priority areas of UNICEF. The Executive Director agreed that synthesizing the reports would be very important, but she noted that because of the volume of information, this was an extremely difficult effort. She would, however, examine how UNICEF could take greater advantage of the reports.

Change in the dates of the second regular session

362. The President brought to the Board's attention a draft decision concerning changing the dates of the second regular Board session. He cited some of the reasons behind seeking the change, including, inter alia: the secretariat would not be in a position to reflect the full outcome of the Special Session for Children; (b) and the dates coincided with the dates of the World Conference against Racism being held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September. All of those elements brought the Bureau and the secretariat to the conclusion that the second regular session should be moved until later in the year. He informed delegations that the Board would need to take a decision to change the dates, and this was also being negotiated informally with the United Nations. It was felt possible to hold the second regular session during the week that the Board was scheduled to review and approve the proposed biennium budget (see chapter III, decision 2001/12, for the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

K. Closing of the session

363. In her closing remarks, the Executive Director thanked delegations and noted that the discussions had been extremely useful. She said that the Special Session preparatory process was an extraordinary opportunity to reenergize and create a passion around issues both for and with children. She noted that many promises made 10 years earlier at the World Summit for Children had not been met, and asked delegations to make special efforts so that this would not happen again.

364. The President of the Board expressed his gratitude to the Bureau members for their substantive and valueble contributions during the annual session. He thanked the Executive Director and the rest of the secretariat. He noted that he would continue to start meetings precisely at the designated hour, and informed the delegations that in that regard, at the annual session, $20,000 had been saved by the efficient use of meeting time. He encouraged the Board to bring the "UNICEF voice" to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session the following week.

Part three
Second regular session of 2001

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 12 December 2001

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

365. In his opening statement, the President of the Executive Board recalled that the present session had been merged with the extraordinary budget session in accordance with decision 2001/12 adopted at the 2001 annual session. Among the items on the agenda, the centrepiece of the discussions would be the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for the period 2002-2005, which would provide the framework for UNICEF activities in programmes, partnerships, alliances, advocacy and internal operations at headquarters and in regional and country offices for the next four years. The Board would also be considering the biennial support budget for 2002-2003 as well as a significant number of country programme recommendations (CPRs), the "core" of UNICEF work and the primary means of pursuing the organizational priorities of the MTSP.

366. The President said that as many delegations had expressed an interest in the Executive Director's recent trip to Afghanistan, she had agreed to make an oral presentation on her visit (see paras. 113-117 below). He also announced that the President of the Security Council was going to brief Board members informally on the Council's deliberations on children in armed conflict, with a particular emphasis on West Africa. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that the Board would consider favourably all of the proposals being presented and "deploy all necessary means to facilitate and ensure the fulfilment of every child's right to survival, protection, participation and development".

367. The Executive Director joined the President in welcoming delegations to the session, adding that on the occasion of its fifty-fifth anniversary, UNICEF was still passionately committed to Maurice Pate's most deeply held conviction — "that the well-being of the world's children is everybody's business, from the family and the grassroots to the highest levels of Government". Those words, she continued, had resonated the previous week as she travelled through Pakistan and Afghanistan, where all UNICEF partners on the ground were working tirelessly to assist endangered civilians, the vast majority of them women and children. On the centennial anniversary of the Nobel Prizes, she made special mention of the Prize for 2001 being presented jointly to the United Nations and the Secretary-General, and recalled when UNICEF was awarded the Prize in 1965.

368. Focusing on the full agenda for the session, the Executive Director said that in preparing the MTSP, the secretariat had sought to respond to earlier decisions, advice and requests from the Board, including on the multi-year funding framework. She remarked that in this time of great uncertainty for the international community, through it all, UNICEF and its partners — especially members of the Executive Board — had kept faith in the knowledge that together they could change the world for children. Thus, she was convinced that with the Board's help, the drive for child rights would be accelerated to new heights when the Special Session for Children convened in May 2002 (see E/ICEF/2001/CRP.9 for the full text of her statement).

B. Adoption of the agenda

369. The agenda, timetable and organization of work of the session, contained in document E/ICEF/2001/12, was adopted. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: MTSP for the period 2002-2005

Item 4: Biennial support budget for 2002-2003

Item 5: Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation:

(a) CPRs

(b) Recommendation for additional regular resources for approved country programmes and the extension of a subregional programme

(c) Intercountry programmes

Item 6: Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Item 7: Financial matters:

(a) Private Sector Division (PSD) financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000

(b) UNICEF interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000, the first year of the biennium 2000-2001

(c) Status of budget implementation for UNICEF support to the Special Session on Children and associated events

Item 8: Report on internal audit activities

Item 9: Programme of work for 2002

Item 10: Other matters

Item 11: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

370. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 48 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, one intergovernmental organization, one United Nations body and two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had submitted credentials.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Medium-term strategic plan for the period 2002-2005

371. The MTSP (E/ICEF/2001/13 and Corr.1) was presented by the Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Strategic Planning. He emphasized five points that were central to the MTSP and its preparation process: (a) the secretariat had attempted to respond to earlier decisions and requests from the Board; (b) there had been an extensive consultation process within and outside UNICEF; (c) the plan recognized the importance of partnerships with other United Nations agencies as well as with both donor and programme Governments; (d) there were links between the MTSP's organizational priorities and the international development goals and targets; and (e) there were issues related to the practical implementation of the plan.

372. Regarding the first point, he recalled that the Board, in its discussions at the first regular session of 2000, had requested the secretariat to develop an MTSP grounded on a human rights-based approach to programming and on results-based management. The former involved the practical implementation of the basic principles of the best interests of the child, universality and non-discrimination, respect for the views of the child, and the child's right to survival and development. The latter required clearly identifying objectives at the outset, improving information management systems, identifying adequate indicators, and using monitoring and evaluation as tools of strategic management.

373. The Deputy Executive Director then briefly outlined the extensive consultations — within UNICEF; at headquarters, regional and country levels, with Executive Board members in New York, Geneva, national capitals and regional centres; and with other United Nations agencies — that had preceded the presentation of the MTSP to the Board.

374. He acknowledged that the goals of the MTSP were ambitious and that UNICEF could not achieve them alone, but only in partnership with many others. UNICEF had to be a team player, and needed to seek strong and durable partnerships and alliances. The centrality of the country programme remained, but this expression of national commitment towards improving the situation of children and women was now framed within the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in support of national policies and priorities. UNICEF would participate in all relevant sector investment programmes (SIPs) and sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) to promote a child-friendly sectoral policy, and would contribute to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) the idea that poverty reduction begins with children. The MTSP itself would contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of the international development goals and targets.

375. After reviewing the five organizational priorities of the MTSP — girls' education, integrated early childhood development (ECD), immunization "plus", fighting HIV/AIDS, and improved protection of children from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination — he stressed that the plan must be seen as a strategic framework and be complemented by more detailed technical guidance, which would be developed soon. Future CPRs would be based on the MTSP, as would part II of the Executive Director's annual report, starting with the report to the Board's annual session in 2003. Most of the specific objectives, targets and indicators would be developed at the country level as part of the country programme process.

376. There was widespread consensus among delegations in support of the MTSP. All speakers were generally positive about the plan's overall direction, including those who expressed reservations about certain of its aspects. A number of delegations supported the plan's human rights approach to programming, while one expressed reservations about the emphasis on children's rights to the exclusion of parental and family rights, stressing that the realization of rights was accomplished through support to families and communities. Speakers stressed the complementarity between a human rights-based approach to programming and results-based management, although some raised questions related to the practical implementation of the rights-based approach. One delegation stressed that human rights had to be translated into concrete programmes if they were to be realized, and others asked how the impact or results of the rights-based approach could be measured and evaluated, and emphasized the need for specific indicators.

377. Many delegations supported the five proposed organizational priorities, stressing the importance of UNICEF concentrating on a small number of priorities with increased focus. Speakers said that the five priorities reflected a serious effort by UNICEF to respect its comparative advantage vis-à-vis its partners and to respect the boundaries that such a comparative advantage implied. Several speakers said that the organizational priorities represented the explicit contribution of UNICEF to the Millennium Declaration goals and to the international development targets, although some said that there should be a tighter link between the organizational priorities and the international development targets.

378. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the plan's emphasis on results-based management, although several stressed that UNICEF would need to continue to refine and update its results-based management, paying particular attention to improved indicators and their use. Many speakers said that they looked forward to the promised changes in the upcoming part II of the Executive Director's annual report so that it would better report and reflect the results-based management of UNICEF. Some delegations called upon UNICEF to continue its support to evidence-based strategies and interventions. A number of speakers said that the MTSP provided a framework for planning and review of progress, but did not provide detailed technical guidance on any of the five organizational priorities. They looked forward to the detailed technical guidance documents to be produced for each of the five priority areas. The secretariat said that in the process of finalizing the technical guidance notes, it would have a consultative process at the technical level, and would welcome inputs from the relevant technical staff of interested Board member Governments.

379. Several delegations accepted the organizational priorities and the overall direction taken by the MTSP, while at the same time expressing support for the centrality of the country programme process, based on the local situation analysis, and for flexibility in the implementation of the MTSP. Some delegations said that the MTSP must guide the development of future country programmes. Others noted the regional priorities mentioned in annex II of the MTSP. The Deputy Executive Director agreed that the MTSP was a strategic framework and was not intended as a detailed set of programming guidelines for the five organizational priorities. An Executive Directive was under preparation, and detailed and comprehensive technical guidance would be prepared for each of the five organizational priorities. He emphasized that the country programme remained central to UNICEF programming and that the five organizational priorities of the MTSP were the lens through which the situation analysis should be done. It was in this way that the MTSP would guide the development of specific programmes and projects at country and regional levels.

380. Concerning the comparative advantages of UNICEF, some delegations asked about UNICEF partnerships within the context of SWAPs, CCAs/UNDAFs and PRSPs. Most of them stressed that the MTSP was not sufficiently clear on these issues, and that UNICEF needed to be a team player, and fully committed at headquarters, regional and national levels to inter-agency collaboration, cooperation with donors, and participation in the relevant national and sectoral plans of programme Governments. Delegations stressed that UNICEF collaboration should not be limited to other United Nations agencies, donors and Governments, but should also extend to civil society and the private sector. In his response, the Deputy Executive Director stated that the secretariat understood the Board's concerns about the role of UNICEF in CCAs/UNDAFs, SWAPs and PRSPs, and that the organization was fully committed to participating in these processes. Two weeks earlier, the

heads of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Executive Committee member agencies had sent a memo to all their field and regional offices stressing the importance of the CCA and UNDAF. UNICEF had already sent its field offices instructions on participation in PRSPs and all relevant SIPs and SWAPs. He noted, however, that the PRSP in particular was not always the country-led exercise that it should be; rather, it was more often led and owned by the international financial institutions than by the Governments of programme countries.

381. A few delegations expressed concern about various aspects of the five organizational priorities. Some asked about boys' education and the emphasis on girls' education. The Deputy Executive Director assured the Board that the UNICEF focus on girls' education did not imply the abandonment of boys, but rather represented the UNICEF contribution to achieving Education for All. He stressed that what was good for girls' education would also be good for the education of boys.

382. Several speakers expressed the hope that focusing on the five organizational priorities would not result in UNICEF abandoning its long-standing work in water and environmental sanitation (WES). The Deputy Executive Director said that WES was a component of integrated ECD and that UNICEF would continue to support WES programmes within its areas of competence and comparative advantage, where the situation analysis indicated it was necessary and where resources permitted. Other speakers said that detailed technical guidance and improved indicators were needed for integrated ECD. One delegation said that the section on ECD was unsatisfactory because the terms and targeted interventions were vague, and it was unclear what UNICEF would do or support. Some delegations underlined the importance of confining UNICEF interventions to fight HIV/AIDS to areas agreed to with the other co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). One delegation said that the section on immunization "plus" was the strongest part of the MTSP and should serve as a model for other sections. The same speaker said that her Government would also like to see greater emphasis on strengthening routine immunization. While expressing agreement with the principle of mainstreaming emergency operations, a speaker commented on the need for the five organizational priorities to be pursued both in regular and emergency programmes and for this to be elaborated further in the technical guidance notes.

383. The Deputy Executive Director said that he would address more technical questions during bilateral discussions with specific delegations. The Executive Director stressed that UNICEF remained committed to working in close partnership with others through such mechanisms as CCA/UNDAF, SIPs, SWAPs and the PRSP, where they existed.

384. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, presented the financial plan (paragraphs 177-205 of the report), which she said was a four-year rolling plan. It was updated annually and contained the results for 2000, estimates for 2001 and projections for 2002 through 2005. The financial plan should not be confused with the MTSP's annual funding target of 7 per cent. The projections contained in the financial plan were more conservative compared to the funding targets as they formed the basis for budgetary allocations and, thus, were based on the most current information as to what might be received during the plan period.

385. She stated that projected income in 2001 would be $1,160 million, which would be $21 million more than in 2000. Income was expected to grow modestly, reaching $1.2 billion by 2005. Because of emerging emergency situations, other resources could exceed projections for 2001 and 2002 by $30 million to $50 million. She reiterated the concern of UNICEF with regard to regular resources income, which was projected to reach only $620 million by 2005 against a funding target of $720 million. In 2000, the ratio of regular resources to other resources fell to 49 per cent of total resources. The Deputy Executive Director noted this alarming trend with concern, as regular resources historically had comprised 60 per cent of total income.

386. A number of delegations expressed concern about the growing imbalance between regular resources and other resources funding and strongly supported the need to increase contributions to regular resources, which they said should continue to be the basis for multilateral programmes. Two delegations mentioned their plans to increase their contributions to regular resources by the MTSP target of 7 per cent. Some speakers indicated that the target of a 7 per cent annual increase required to reach total resources of $1.5 billion by 2005 might be too high. Other delegations,

however, said that the funding target was feasible. One delegation stated that the question of adequate funding had become even more important in the context of the tragic events of 11 September and emphasized the need for UNICEF to intensify fund-raising efforts.

387. One delegation mentioned the need to review the implications of increasing contributions to other resources in contrast to declining levels of regular resources. A speaker requested clarification about thematic funding, and another cautioned that the only conditionality attached to thematic funding should be to limit it to organizational priorities so that it did not interfere with the design of country-specific programmes. Most of the delegations addressing this issue stressed the importance of a strong core of regular resources funding to ensure the impartial and multilateral character of UNICEF.

388. While expressing concern about the growing imbalance between regular resources and other resources funding, the Executive Director appreciated delegations' support on the need to increase regular resources, which was important for greater flexibility from both programmatic and management perspectives.

389. When this agenda item was reintroduced later in the session so that delegations could consider the draft decision, the Vice-President (Colombia) made a presentation on the regional briefing for Latin America and the Caribbean on the MTSP held in Cartegena de Indias, Colombia, on 8 November (see E/ICEF/2001/CRP.11). The Executive Director thanked the Vice-President for his rich presentation and expressed appreciation for the initiative of Colombia, following the UNICEF briefing to the regional delegation in New York, to propose an additional meeting in Colombia (see annex II, decision 2001/22, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

B. Biennial support budget for 2002-2003

390. The Comptroller presented an overview of the proposed biennial support budget for 2002-2003 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.10). It covered an explanation of the UNICEF funding structure, support budget trends from the biennium 1996-1997 to 2002-2003, the financial framework for the biennium, the objectives of the biennial support budget, and the strategies used to achieve the objectives and the results. The budget document followed the harmonized format with that of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and focused on strategic financial information for informed decision-making.

391. The Comptroller emphasized the integrated nature of the budget proposal, which had gone through extensive consultations and reviews, and had been linked to the country programme plans, headquarters' and regional offices' management plans, and the MTSP. The MTSP priorities formed the basis for the budget guidelines, formulation and reviews.

392. The Comptroller's summary of the trends and main results of the budget proposal indicated that: (a) the ratio of support budget to total resources allocated was projected to be only 19.6 per cent, which was a reduction from 23.3 per cent in the 2000-2001 biennium; (b) by 2002-2003, total income was projected to increase by 47 per cent compared to 1996-1997; (c) at $478 million, the net support budget remained at the same level for the eight-year period since 1996-1997; (d) at $566.2 million, the gross support budget showed an increase of only 7.4 per cent since 1996-1997; and (e) at 2,523, the number of posts was slightly less than the 2,529 in 1996-1997.

393. Following the overview of the budget proposal, the Deputy Executive Director, Operations, provided further explanations and responded to the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed biennial support budget for 2002-2003, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.11. She expressed the secretariat's appreciation for the Advisory Committee's recommendations to further improve the format and content of the budget document to be reflected in the next budget document.

394. She reiterated the particular interest of UNICEF in the policy implication of the rapid increase in other resources and trust funds compared to regular resources. With regard to the Advisory Committee's recommendation to review the recovery rate to further reduce the subsidy from regular resources, the Deputy Executive Director indicated that UNICEF would prepare a paper for presentation to the Board following the outcome of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) United Nations system-wide study in this area.

395. The Advisory Committee had commented on the need to balance the international character of UNICEF against programme needs, cost-effectiveness, and the

need to establish and promote local expertise through national Professionals. The Deputy Executive Director said that this had been carefully reviewed in each country programme management plan, and pointed out that, overall, there had been a major growth in the number of national Professionals.

396. The Deputy Executive Director responded to specific comments from the Advisory Committee with regard to post proposals. She complemented the detailed information presented by the Comptroller on the number of new international Professional posts. Excluding the technical transfers from PSD and conversions, the net increase was only 14 new posts in the field, out of which 10 were for the two Africa regions.

397. She provided detailed information to the Board to underscore the secretariat's proposal to upgrade the posts of Chief, Global Policy, and Chief, Strategic Information, from P-5 to D-1 levels. The Chief of the Global Policy Section would provide leadership and direction to a multidisciplinary team, including development economists, social policy specialists and advisers, on legal frameworks for the protection and promotion of children's and women's rights based on international human rights instruments. As head of the Section, the incumbent would lead UNICEF global assessment, analysis and reporting on the situation of children, and shape the organization's evidence-based strategies to influence major human development debates, economic reform and social investment strategies so that they would work in the best interests of children.

398. The Chief of the Strategic Information Section would provide leadership and direction to ensure the global role of UNICEF in monitoring the situation of children and women. The incumbent would need to provide expertise and guidance in the development of quality standards, access, and strategic use of information and knowledge in pursuing the key priority areas of UNICEF work. In addition to maintaining credible corporate databases on key social indicators and promoting their use, the incumbent of the post would lead the development of more effective information in support of monitoring progress on the MTSP priorities.

399. In the restructured programme group, both posts were crucial to provide leadership and directional roles in their respective fields, which led them to be classified at these levels following the standard International Civil Service Commission classification criteria.

400. With regard to the conce
Committee that the funds
temporary assistance in the In
Division should not be used to
staff needs, the Deputy Executi
that 25 full-time consultants
functions had already been conv
However, because of the
information technology, consul
complement UNICEF staff in
efficiency. She also mentione
information technology initiativ
operations, the establishment of
proposed as in the past.

401. All of the delegations addr
expressed appreciation for
commended UNICEF for the cl
the submission. They welcor
harmonized budget format wi
which allowed consistency and
They also welcomed in partic
growth net budget, which wa
through efficiency measures, th
budget and the MTSP, and the r
support costs from 23.3 to 1
resources. The delegations
increases in staffing in Africa,
for the reorganization of the
elevation of the profile of the e
endorsed the attention given to
of staff in budgetary allocations.

402. One speaker requested an
financial projections for the pas
well as future three to four years
the PSD review at the January
Some delegations mentioned th
linkage of the support budget
delegation wanted to know how
with its modest staff complement
function. Several speakers em
strengthened collaboration and
agencies of UNDG. Two delegat
the Advisory Committee on mea
noted the need for indicators, wi
the secretariat. It was also mentic
monitoring, planning for results w
therefore, the choice of indicator

403. Several delegations voice
the increases in other resources

any increase in regular resources, and requested the secretariat to analyse the situation and strategize to reverse this trend. One speaker urged Governments to increase their contributions to regular resources.

404. Some delegations pointed out that 5 per cent recovery in other resources was inadequate to ensure that regular resources did not subsidize other resources. One delegation had the same comment with regard to the 3 per cent for trust funds, and looked forward to the secretariat's review after the JIU study. It was also suggested that the use of interest earned from unused other resources be included in the review.

405. In response to the remarks on the recovery costs, and as stated in her introduction, the Deputy Executive Director said that the secretariat would come back to the Board with a paper after the JIU study, probably at the first regular session of January 2003. In that context, she informed the Board that the determination of the current rate of 5 per cent was based upon actual cost and offsets from projected income from unused other resources.

406. In conclusion, the Deputy Executive Director thanked delegations for their very positive comments. She expressed the secretariat's appreciation for their support for the additional budget on staff security. She informed delegations that with the regular resources allocation formula, the share for least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, would increase. The Board would be apprised of this in 2003 when the regular resources allocation criteria would be reviewed. On the question of the high PSD funding projection, she mentioned that it was due to the one-time legacy estimated at $30 million in 2002, which, in fact, had been substantially higher than estimated. Further details would be provided at the January 2002 Board session.

407. She stated that the reporting on results and evaluations would be done by the secretariat through the annual report of the Executive Director. She reiterated the active collaboration of UNICEF in UNDG, including chairing the management of common services and common premises committees. Also, on information technology, UNICEF worked closely with UNDP and UNFPA. Information technology strategies had been discussed at the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board session in September 2002, at which it was stated that UNICEF had been used as a benchmark.

408. With regard to the question of the increase in the consultancy budget, the Deputy Executive Director clarified that it amounted to just $2.3 million, with the remainder being only a shift from other budget lines. The increase was in information technology for the archiving project and maintenance. On the issue of the vacancy rate noted by the Advisory Committee, she pointed out that the actual vacancy rate of 9 per cent as against the budgeted rate of 6 per cent was temporary and deliberate in view of the reorganization of the programme group at headquarters (see annex II, decision 2001/13, for the resolutions adopted by the Executive Board).

C. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

Introduction

409. The Director, Programme Division, presented an overview of the 64 CPRs before the Board for approval. The recommendations were summarized in the document known informally as the "round up" document (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73). He said that the CPRs represented a broad range of strategic approaches to UNICEF cooperation and partnerships, reflecting the widely varying circumstances of children and women in the different countries and regions. He also detailed some of the notable common features in all of the CPRs: (a) country strategy discussions had been organized by Governments, with the widespread participation of many other cooperating partners; (b) the CPRs were framed within a rights-based approach, moving towards multisectoral strategies emphasizing care and survival in early childhood, learning in middle childhood and development and participation in adolescence; (c) the country programmes were guided by CCAs and UNDAFs where they existed; and (d) where applicable, the recommendations aimed to indicate how UNICEF cooperation would support PRSPs, SWAPs and other sector-based reforms.

410. The Director noted a few critical areas where, through the new programmes of cooperation, UNICEF would accelerate its efforts to assist children and women whose lives were most under threat. These included the HIV/AIDS pandemic; the incorporation, more widely than in the past, of programme components and collaborative United Nations activities that would strengthen capacity and preparedness for response to instability and crises; the reinforcement of

national poverty reduction strategies, where applicable, addressing in particular the basic services, gender and human rights dimensions of poverty; and survival issues, reinforced by the immunization "plus" and integrated ECD priorities of the MTSP. He emphasized that all of the programmes of cooperation had been further refined following the January 2001 Board session, particularly in the sharpening of the statements of objectives and expected results, in the detailing of the programme components, and in the identification of indicators for assessing progress.

411. The Director also noted the request for additional regular resources for 22 countries to meet the required regular resources planning levels for the final phases of the programme cycles approved by the Board in previous years, and the extension of one subregional programme, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.72.

412. One delegation commented on the Director's introduction. She expressed the view that common country programme approval procedures and harmonized programme cycles among the funds and programmes were very important elements in the development of coherence among country programmes based on the CCA and UNDAF. Therefore, her delegation welcomed the decision of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in June of this year to establish a new procedure for the approval of their country programmes which was similar to that of UNICEF. It was hoped that a similar procedure would be adopted by the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board. The delegation attached great importance to the substantive implementation of Board decision 1995/8 (E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1) on the UNICEF country programming process, especially the issue of the early involvement of relevant partners by country offices in the discussion of priorities and strategies prior to the discussion of the country note at the Board. As stated on previous occasions, her delegation would like this involvement at the country level to be very thorough and allow for a substantive dialogue between field offices and Board members in the preparation of the country programme.

413. The speaker also noted the importance of ensuring that the comments made by the Board on the country notes at the first regular session were taken into account when the CPRs were finalized. She recalled that in discussing the country notes in January, her delegation, along with several others, had expressed concern about the lack of or limited reference to partnerships with other development actors in the field, including UNICEF participation in PRSP processes and SWAPs. She was encouraged by the Director's comments on the subject and pleased to note that some, but far from all, CPRs before the Board included more detailed information on partnerships. However, there was still room for improvement. UNICEF was urged to focus on this issue and include in all new country programmes a more comprehensive description of existing partnerships in the proposed programme areas, followed by a more detailed analysis of how UNICEF planned to use these partnerships as instruments in reaching the programme goals. It was also hoped that this would already be a part of the discussions of country notes at the January 2002 Board session, and that there would be a more interactive and substantive discussion on the concrete country programmes.

Eastern and Southern Africa

414. The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa introduced the 11 CPRs from the region being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included nine full-length recommendations for Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.1/Add.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.7/Add.1 and Corr.1, and E/ICEF/2001/P/L.8/Add.1 and E/ICEF/2001/P/L.9/Add.1, respectively); and two short-duration proposals for Burundi and Comoros (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.57 and E/ICEF/2001/P/L.58, respectively).

415. The Regional Director highlighted the common characteristics of the 11 country programmes, stressing that UNICEF had broadened its alliances and partnerships in the region with universities, parliamentarians, the private sector, youth and children. Regarding CCA and UNDAF developments, he reported that in countries where the PRSP and UNDAF processes were linked, such as in the United Republic of Tanzania and Mozambique, this helped to define the role of the United Nations system in the national development agenda. He also said that all countries had submitted their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and that the Concluding Observations had informed the preparation of the CPRs. Finally, he pointed out that all 11 CPRs reflected the three top priorities identified by UNICEF for the region: HIV/AIDS; malaria; and emergency preparedness and response.

416. On the *Ethiopia* CPR, one delegation noted that the major concern raised last year, maternal health, had

been addressed in the country programme. With regard to polio eradication, the same delegation said that government political and financial commitments were critical if planned intensified efforts were to succeed. She added that, overall, impact indicators of the country programme would need to be developed further.

417. The same speaker regretted that the *Lesotho* CPR did not address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to which the Regional Director responded that, on the contrary, the Lesotho country programme was totally focused on HIV/AIDS through different sectors. As stated in paragraph 16 of the CPR: "... The programmes address three stages of child development: early childhood; primary school; and adolescence. Each of these programmes will address issues related to ... the impact of HIV/AIDS ...".

418. On the *Mozambique* CPR, the country delegation noted that this programme of cooperation was among the largest in Africa. He indicated that while much had been achieved, the challenges remained great. He expressed appreciation for UNICEF collaborative efforts invested in the preparation of the country programme, which had involved the Government and all development partners. The same cooperation was essential in responding to the needs of the floods victims of 2000 and 2001, especially women and children.

419. Regarding the *South Africa* CPR, one delegation said that the proposed country programme seemed too ambitious in view of the limited resources of UNICEF and the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Regional Director responded that some donors had indicated their willingness to provide significant additional resources for HIV/AIDS interventions.

420. Commenting on the education programme in the *United Republic of Tanzania*, one speaker suggested that it would be appropriate for UNICEF to work not only at the community level, but also at the national level, within the context of the SWAP.

421. Two delegations commented on the *Zambia* CPR. The first speaker expressed her appreciation for the high quality of collaboration among UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development and Japanese cooperation in maintaining high levels of immunization coverage. She also commended the UNICEF response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, HIV/AIDS peer education, advocacy for increased action for youth, and support to orphans and other vulnerable children. In the area of nutrition, the delegation suggested that UNICEF should move from micronutrient supplementation to food fortification. The Regional Director responded that a monitoring system had been established to assess the progress made every year by the food industry in the region, i.e. whether it had reached a certain level of development to allow the food fortification initiative to start.

422. The second speaker said that there seemed to be no UNICEF cooperation with regard to SWAPs. The Regional Director replied that, on the contrary, Zambia was the best example in the region of a genuine and effective involvement of UNICEF in the development of SWAPs in health and education. This was reflected in paragraph 24 of the CPR, which stated: " ... UNICEF plans to continue its active engagement in SWAPs development, common planning and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that human rights principles are underscored and fully integrated into plans and activities as appropriate".

423. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

West and Central Africa

424. The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the 11 CPRs from the region being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included nine full-length recommendations for Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.10/Add.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.18/Add.1, respectively); and two short-duration programmes for Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.59 and E/ICEF/2001/P/L.60, respectively).

425. In presenting the CPRs, the Regional Director described the context in which they had been prepared. The 11 countries represented 81 million children, i.e., over one half of the population less than 18 years of age in all of West and Central Africa. She said that poverty, economic and social instability, and the escalating HIV/AIDS pandemic were all part of the deplorable background in which the programme recommendations were being made. Nevertheless, there had been some significant achievements for children, including a common African position on preparations for the United Nations Special Session on Children, the "Say Yes for Children" campaign, the evolution of a common understanding on child trafficking, and the

successful synchronization of several national immunization days (NIDs).

426. The country delegation of *Côte d'Ivoire* expressed appreciation for the one-year short-duration programme, which would enable the country catch up in many development areas. The Government had created a new ministry, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, and had established a new insurance scheme to help cover costs. The Government had recently signed International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138 and 182 related to conditions of work that affect children. Côte d'Ivoire had also signed bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries on child trafficking. The Government had also taken steps to improve the governance situation since the elections of late 2000.

427. Commenting on the CPR for the *Gambia*, one delegation acknowledged the significant achievements in health and education in the country, as well as the revitalization of the primary health care system through the Bamako Initiative. The speaker said that malaria was still a major threat to children and called for the full implementation of the Roll Back Malaria Plan of Action. Additional funds were needed to ensure that activities related to child rights could be carried out. The speaker expressed appreciation for the efforts that UNICEF had made with all partners in improving emergency preparedness.

428. Concerning the *Guinea* CPR, the country delegation said that the proposed country programme reflected the post-conflict realities in the country, including the internal displacement of populations. The speaker welcomed the objectives of the programmes as noted in paragraph 13 of the CPR. The document also considered the economic revitalization that had been pursued since 1985. The new programme also took into consideration such factors as the instability in the subregion, the yellow fever epidemic and Guinea's eligibility for consideration by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The speaker praised UNICEF for having quickly opened two sub-offices in response to the humanitarian crisis of 2000, and also acknowledged the support of such other partners as the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Japan and the United Kingdom. He asked donors to consider favourably the Consolidated Appeal Process that would bring additional funding for communities and families on whom the new country programme must count to achieve its objectives.

429. In commenting on the *Nigeria* CPR, the country delegation confirmed the importance of the collaboration between his Government and UNICEF. While appreciating the seriousness and complexity of the problems related to child trafficking, he said that it might be useful if alternative language could be found to promote a less passionate discussion. The speaker noted that challenges for Africa included the eradication of HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, economic stimulus and debt relief. Another speaker said that UNICEF had increased collaboration in the country to promote impregnated bednets as part of the malaria control programme. The same speaker expressed concern about the lack of progress in development indicators and hoped that the CCA/UNDAF would help to strengthen this area. A third delegation agreed with the increased importance that UNICEF was giving to the Nigeria country programme. However, such cross-cutting programmes as child rights were the least funded, and the speaker asked if UNICEF saw this as a problem. The delegation stressed the importance of helping to ensure that girls' school attendance was promoted through all grades by engaging more female teachers at all levels. Acknowledging that the programme for Nigeria was the largest in Africa, the Regional Director said that although the funds allocated to child protection were limited, the programme would benefit from other cross-sectoral funds.

430. Speaking about the *Sierra Leone* country programme, a delegation agreed with the priorities outlined, but said that although it had been prepared recently, the CPR was somewhat outdated, specifically paragraph 17 on likely political scenarios and their impact on implementation strategies. The speaker asked about UNICEF plans in light of recent changes since more areas had become accessible in the north-east. The delegation's Government was very interested in both the formal and informal aspects of the education programme and child protection, especially as related to girls. The speaker said that the planned activities for HIV/AIDS would benefit from collaboration with the World Bank. Another speaker asked if the immunization targets for Sierra Leone were realistic for a two-year period, even with improved accessibility in the country. The present coverage rate was 39 per cent and the target was 60 per cent. The delegation sought additional information about how the Government, UNICEF and other partners planned to achieve this ambitious target.

431. Two delegations sought clarification about references to child trafficking, child labour and sexual exploitation in their countries made by the Regional Director in her opening remarks. Both speakers said that their countries were against such activities. The Regional Director said that the first subregional consultation on child trafficking had been held in Gabon and that the commitment of that Government was evident. Another meeting was planned for March 2002 in Libreville on the same subject. It was known that poverty, war and other factors contributed to the conditions that encouraged trafficking; nevertheless it had been possible to agree on certain common positions for the upcoming Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to take place in Yokohama, Japan, on 17-20 December 2001. She referred to the agreements concluded between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire and the heightened level of awareness of immigration, customs and police authorities throughout the region. This was an example of the firm commitment of the political leadership that such actions must be stopped.

432. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

Americas and the Caribbean

433. The Regional Director for the Americas and Caribbean introduced the 19 CPRs from the region being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included 16 full-length recommendations for Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.19/Add.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.34/Add.1, respectively); and three short-duration programmes for the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay), a multi-country initiative on HIV/AIDS, and a micronutrient programme for the Andean subregion and Paraguay (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.61-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.63, respectively).

434. The Regional Director said that the programmes were the result of a participatory process and took into account the comments made by the Executive Board on the country notes at the first regular session in January. Summarizing the context of the programmes, he highlighted the political consensus around the commitment to children as reflected in the outcome of the Ibero-American Summit held in Lima, Peru, in November 2000, as well as in the Kingston Declaration on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, adopted in October 2000. He also mentioned growing alliances for children's rights between Governments and members of civil society, and the focus on cooperation within the United Nations system through the CCA and UNDAF processes.

435. He noted seven innovative common themes in the CPRs: the rights-based approach; policy and legislation to reflect child rights; institutional capacity-building; partnerships for children; programming in "transitional" countries; regional strategies in key areas; and a focus on the priorities of the MTSP and of the region. He also mentioned how the CPRs coincided with the MTSP and regional priorities.

436. On the *Cuba* CPR, the country delegation expressed appreciation for UNICEF support for the Government's actions in such areas as prenatal care, nutrition, quality education and mortality reduction. Cuba was willing to offer technical assistance to other countries interested in sharing its success in specific areas.

437. Commenting on the CPR for the *Dominican Republic*, the country delegation expressed appreciation for the country programme's support of Government efforts towards sustainable development and the promotion of human rights.

438. A delegation welcomed the CPR for *Haiti* and the way it took into account comments made on the country note. The speaker underlined the importance of the country programme components on maternal and under-five mortality, WES, emergencies and HIV/AIDS, and requested clarification on the evaluation provisions for under-five mortality reduction. The Regional Director referred the delegation to the monitoring and evaluation activities described in paragraphs 27, 33-35 and 40 of the CPR.

439. The country delegation welcomed UNICEF support to Government actions to promote children's rights in *Venezuela*. The speaker highlighted the importance of monitoring systems and of collaboration with NGOs and the private sector, and expressed appreciation for UNICEF support following the December 1999 emergency.

440. A delegation asked why the proposed *multi-country initiative for HIV/AIDS* was not funded from regular resources and how it related to other United Nations activities in this area. The Regional Director said that while regular resources were used to fund

other actions on HIV/AIDS in the entire region, the multi-country programme aimed to secure additional resources for a group of countries where the pandemic was particularly serious. All UNICEF actions in this area, including the multi-country initiative, were implemented in close coordination with UNAIDS and a wide range of partners, including NGOs, the media and the Catholic Church.

441. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

East Asia and the Pacific

442. The Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific introduced the six CPRs from the region being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included three full-length recommendations for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Thailand (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.35/Add.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.37/Add.1, respectively), as well as the final three-year transitional country programme for Malaysia, a one-year extension of the current multi-country programme for 13 Pacific island countries and a stand-alone proposal for other resources funding for the expansion of the Safe Viet Nam Initiative (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.64-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.66).

443. The Regional Director assured delegations that all of the comments made on the country notes for the three full-length CPRs at the first regular Board session in January 2001 had been taken into account in their preparation. On recent trends related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region, she said that while estimates varied, at least 3.5 million people were living with HIV/AIDS. Although recorded numbers still looked small in many countries, all of them had serious risk factors. For example, national preparedness to face the epidemics was insufficient in many countries owing to a lack of knowledge, stigma and a belief that the epidemics could be contained within high-risk groups. This, plus weak health infrastructures and an acute lack of access to affordable anti-retroviral and other common drugs to treat opportunistic infections, were contributing to the growth and severity of the epidemics. However, she noted that while HIV/AIDS was growing at an alarming rate, there were some success stories, and she reported on several. She also reported on progress at the regional level.

444. The country delegation expressed its sincere appreciation to UNICEF and its dedicated and hardworking staff in the field, noting in particular the UNICEF contribution to the polio eradication programme that resulted in the *Lao People's Democratic Republic* being declared polio free. He also mentioned successful UNICEF efforts in activities related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) and community awareness that were crucial for women's and children's development. He declared that the new CPR met entirely the needs of the Government, and extended his gratitude to the donor community.

445. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

South Asia

446. The Regional Director for South Asia introduced the three full-length CPRs from the region being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.38/Add.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.40/Add.1, respectively).

447. In response to selected common issues raised at the first regular Board session of 2001, the Regional Director elaborated on the close inter-agency cooperation among UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF within the context of the national CCA/UNDAF process. He described the emphasis on decentralized programming from the centre to the periphery in the three countries, noting that this adaptive and flexible strategy in working at the local level might be the best approach to withstand the strains of current emergencies in Nepal, to target the districts with the poorest social indicators in Bhutan, and to ensure equitable allocations to conflict and non-conflict zones in Sri Lanka. Decentralization also encouraged improved disaggregated data and facilitated community-based approaches to ECD.

448. All three CPRs focused on programme assistance for quality education, in line with the MTSP. The Regional Director also addressed the issue of conflict in the region, specifically Afghanistan, but not excluding Sri Lanka, where child protection issues continued to be significant, and Nepal, with increasing possibilities of internal conflict.

449. One delegation commended the decentralized strategy of the *Nepal* country programme and its collaborative nature. This collaboration, which had been praised by donors, including USAID, had contributed to a 23 per cent decline in child mortality in five years.

450. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

451. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States introduced the five CPRs being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included one full-length recommendation for the Republic of Moldova (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.41/Add.1); three short-duration proposals for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.67-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.69, respectively); and one short-duration multi-country programme proposal covering 12 countries in the region (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.70). He also provided an overview of the situation in the countries of the region during the past 10 years of transition.

452. The Regional Director said that overall, for the CPRs in the region, UNICEF remained concerned about financial programmes of reconstruction or development in the social sectors, and would continue to urge greater attention to the education and health sector needs in these countries. All of the CPRs showed a continuing focus on early childhood care, with a range of activities appropriate to each country situation. He also addressed the challenge of the placement of young children in institutions.

453. With regard to the processes of transition, he said that it was now widely recognized that they would last longer and affect many more people more deeply than had been expected at the start of the decade, adding that poverty had become more pervasive and that disparities had grown considerably. HIV/AIDS was recognized as a growing problem in the region. In the "Say Yes for Children" campaign, asked to select three issues of paramount importance for child well-being, those who voted chose HIV/AIDS, social exclusion, and child abuse and exploitation as the top priorities for action.

454. In commenting on the CPR for the *Republic of Moldova*, the country delegation expressed appreciation to the UNICEF Representative for her work on behalf of the children in his country, and for mobilizing support for and prioritizing the current needs of children. He expressed satisfaction with the proposed programme, noting that it responded to the main priorities set forth by the Government to improve the conditions of women and children, which was closely linked to the overall progress of the society. The same speaker shared the view expressed in the country note and the main goals of the proposed programme to support national efforts to alleviate poverty. This would promote the well-being of children, young people and women, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It was hoped that donors would be able to undertake further measures for a coherent and integrated approach to the different sectors, with the main efforts being conducted by the Government. The speaker said that the Government acknowledged that the status of the child and the most disadvantaged categories of the population were indicative of the level of development in the country, and that more needed to be done. In addition, the Government was learning from the experiences of other countries. UNICEF support, as outlined in the CPR, would greatly supplement Government efforts to adjust child protection policies to the new socio-economic realities of the country.

455. The country delegation expressed appreciation for UNICEF work and welcomed the proposed CPR for the *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*. The speaker explained that the country had experienced an extremely difficult decade of conflict, sanctions and economic crisis, which had a direct and negative effect on society, especially on children. The proposed short-duration country programme was only the beginning of a constructive engagement of UNICEF in alleviating the current difficult situation. Assistance would be needed in the areas of child health and education in general, and especially for vulnerable groups such as refugees, internally displaced persons and children with disabilities. The speaker mentioned that the Government expected greater involvement in the coming years and was willing to continue the cooperation in jointly identifying objectives and facilitating UNICEF programmes on the ground.

456. Commenting on the CPR for *the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the country delegation said that the Government appreciated UNICEF activities on behalf of the country's children, which was clearly stated in October 2001 in a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Executive Director. The speaker cited such successes as the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, the revitalization of maternity

hospital networks through the country, the achievement of full coverage of the interactive learning programme in primary schools and increased support to better child care practices for vulnerable groups. He stated that activities at the local level needed to be coordinated and complemented at the national level with a clear definition of roles and accountabilities of both governmental and non-governmental partners, thereby becoming part of the national plan for development. The delegation acknowledged the UNICEF priorities set out in the MTSP and agreed that the UNICEF programmes should be based on the life cycle, be non-discriminatory in every aspect and be in the best interest of the child. For The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, this translated into ensuring equal access to humanitarian assistance for all ethnic groups, uninterrupted access to the social infrastructure networks and services for all, and the development of mechanisms for monitoring abuses of children's rights. The Government was looking forward to cooperating with United Nations agencies as formulated in the inter-agency appeal, and welcomed in particular the initiatives and funding that would put the country back onto the track of development and integration with the European structures.

457. All speakers commenting on the *multi-country programme* thanked the Regional Director for his clear, comprehensive statement and expressed support for the CPR. It was felt that the document clearly reflected the situation regarding the protection of children and women in the region who were still experiencing the negative impact of the economic and political changes that had occurred over the past 10 years. It also contained a fair reflection of the basic aspects of cooperation between UNICEF and the countries of the region, which provided a positive response to meeting the needs of the children of the region. The CPR was a confirmation of the fact that UNICEF continued to be prepared to take into account the demands and specificity of separate regions and groups of countries regarding the need to ensure the protection of children.

458. A speaker commented on the extremely ambitious nature of the programme in view of the modest financial resources allocated to the 12 countries of the region. However, the speaker said that though modest, the resources would contribute to improving the situation of women and children. In that connection, the delegation urged the countries to focus on specific and concrete issues related to children. An important issue was the efficient and equitable distribution of resources among countries, taking into account the results of the analysis and work undertaken by United Nations agencies.

459. The country delegation of Croatia said that his country had reached the required combined threshold for gross national product per capita and under-five mortality rate to enable it to be phased out of allocation from regular resources at the end of the multi-country programme. UNICEF had established constructive alliances among the United Nations agencies, Croatian authorities and national NGOs, which complied with its unwavering promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and had led to a strong national advocacy framework for numerous programmes on behalf of children. With the envisaged closing of the UNICEF office in Croatia, initial consultations had been undertaken in Zagreb to discuss the future modalities of engagement with UNICEF activities, including the possibility of establishing a national committee. While there was underlying support for this idea, its feasibility was being impeded solely for economic reasons. The speaker said that Croatia continued to experience many economic uncertainties created by the transition of the past decade and further exacerbated by the devastating effects of the armed conflict. However, it was hoped that through the implementation of current economic and fiscal policies, the situation would improve as expeditiously as possible. UNICEF should rest assured that promoting and protecting the rights of the child would remain high on the Government's national agenda.

460. The country delegation of the Russian Federation mentioned that work would begin soon on the second consolidated work plan between the Russian Federation and UNICEF for the next programme period, and hoped that the document would include the development of those directions that had proved useful and topical. This included protection of the health of young people and children, and of child rights, taking into account the special needs of children. The speaker wanted to see targeted assistance for disadvantaged children.

461. The country delegation of Ukraine said that the Government had outlined its priorities and programmes in a separate report. The speaker thanked donors for their financial assistance in implementing other child-related projects and activities in Ukraine.

462. In response, the Regional Director expressed his appreciation for the solid working relations between the Governments and civil society partners and the

extensive dialogue during the development of the programme recommendation. UNICEF looked forward to working through the implementation of these CPRs and developing more extensive programmes of cooperation in the future, where appropriate.

463. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

Middle East and North Africa

464. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa introduced the nine CPRs from the region being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. They included eight full-length programmes for Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.42/Add.1-E/ICEF/2001/P/L.49/Add.1, respectively), as well as a short-duration programme for Iraq (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.71).

465. In introducing the CPRs, the Regional Director focused on the effects of deepening conflict and crisis in the region, which were threatening the sustainability of the remarkable gains made in the 1990s. Other serious concerns included the economic downturn; increased military allocations, often at the expense of social sectors; and public denial with regard to HIV/AIDS. He said that the new country programme, very much in step with the new MTSP priorities, also reflected a new emphasis on disparity reduction and child rights. UNICEF programmes across the region were making steady progress towards helping Governments and communities to address such emerging issues as working children; children living on the street; and children who are victims of abuse, in conflict with the law and affected by armed conflicts.

466. On the *Algeria* CPR, the country delegation said that while his country had achieved all of the goals it had set for itself, progress was still needed. Cooperation with UNICEF would contribute to the realization of such priorities as mitigating the effects of violence and poverty on children, and progress in the areas of health and education. Additional regular resources were required to make it possible for UNICEF to implement programmes for children.

467. On the CPR for *Egypt*, the delegation of the country stated that UNICEF and her Government had developed a strategy to streamline and include the rights of children and women in all decisions through promoting the position of women, especially the girl child, and the disabled, and integrated social models for sustainable development. Another speaker said that UNICEF should take into account the fact that Egypt was now a low- to middle-income country, and its programme should be shifting from implementation support to national policy and strategy development. UNICEF could also play a more active role in donor coordination. Responding to a specific comment about the composition of the country office, the Regional Director said that the country team in Egypt was in a solid position to implement the country programme and collaborate with partners.

468. Regarding the *Iraq* CPR, the country delegation expressed appreciation for UNICEF efforts to improve the situation of children in the world and in Iraq, especially in view of the sanctions against the country. While Iraq had been able to achieve all of the goals for children before the 1990s, the sanctions had moved the country from prosperity to extreme poverty, affecting mostly children. Education and health services had deteriorated owing to the lack of resources because Iraq was prevented from exporting and benefiting from its own resources. The continuation of sanctions prevented Iraq's development and had affected all sectors of society, especially children. Resolving the tragedy of the children in Iraq would not be achieved except through the lifting of the comprehensive sanctions to enable the country to make use of its riches to attain national development.

469. Another speaker requested information on the quality of cooperation and level of involvement of the Government of Iraq in the UNICEF human resources policy. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF enjoyed a good working relationship with the Government of Iraq, as it did in any other country. A third delegation expressed its support for the Iraq country programme and for the development of a future five-year programme. His Government had provided humanitarian assistance to Iraq since 1991 and looked forward to a partnership with UNICEF to extend that assistance to the south and central parts of the country.

470. Addressing the *Lebanon* CPR, the country delegation expressed his Government's satisfaction with UNICEF efforts, especially the focus on the poorest regions and the reinforcement of partnerships with youth and the private sector. While the economic slowdown presented additional challenges nation-wide, the Bekaa valley should be given special importance as it required rehabilitation, including demining.

471. Commenting on the *Morocco* CPR, the country delegation said that her Government and the Royal Family had a strong interest in issues related to children, ranging from immunization to the youth parliament. Their political will was demonstrated by the signing of all related conventions and protocols including the ILO convention on child labour, as well as by a series of Arab-African conferences held under the auspices of His Majesty the King. One such meeting had been the Rabat meeting on sexual exploitation of children, in preparation for Second World Conference against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

472. Speaking on the CPR for *Sudan*, the delegation of the country said that the country programme was a product of collaborative efforts between UNICEF and the National Council for Child Care and concerned ministries. It applied and depended on the results of national research and child care indicators that enhanced the importance on relying on national statistics. The speaker expressed concern about some of the statistics used, particularly with regard to child immunization, low birth weight and vitamin A. Those statistics should benefit from more review, in consultation with relevant national technical bodies. The new country programme would provide more support to government ministries and the National Council for Child Care, which was the focal point for matters related to child care in Sudan and for monitoring implementation of the new county programme.

473. The country delegation of the *Syrian Arab Republic* expressed her Government's support for the country programme, saying that it would assist in preserving the gains and further developing services for children in collaboration with Arab and international partners. Channelling more technical and financial resources would benefit children in view of the problems faced in the country.

474. On the *Tunisia* CPR, the country delegation said that the proposed country programme emphasized the partnership with UNICEF, which provided noteworthy technical assistance.

475. Addressing the *Yemen* CPR, the country delegation stressed the importance of the UNICEF contribution, in full partnership with the Government, to the development of health and education for children and women. Cooperation with UNICEF had led to commendable results in maternal and child care, and those efforts had benefited from support from other United Nations agencies and donors. Another speaker said that UNICEF could benefit from the services of a senior gender expert to support the goal of gender equity. In the area of health, the components of the area-based programme were in line with the sectoral reform document of 1999, but there was an urgent need for policy dialogue with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and for donor coordination to support the development of district health assistance. The speaker encouraged UNICEF to shape coordination between donors and United Nations organizations working in those areas. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF had good collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) for health services. In addition, UNICEF was committed to gender equity, which it believed was better served by addressing the issue from a cross-cutting perspective rather than through a specific post.

476. The recommendations approved by the Executive Board are contained in annex II, decision 2001/14.

Report of the Executive Director on her visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan

477. Under this agenda item of consideration of the CPRs, the Executive Director briefed the Executive Board on her recent visit to Pakistan and Afghanistan, where she had spent five days at the end of November and beginning of December. The purpose of her visit had been to review the situation of Afghan children; to meet the country teams of the Afghanistan and Pakistan country offices, and especially to thank the Afghan national staff who had continued to work throughout the crisis; and to plan for the future work of UNICEF in Afghanistan. She said that even prior to 11 September, the country had faced a dire humanitarian emergency, with high child and maternal mortality rates, widespread malnutrition and drought.

478. She had a number of observations on her visit. First, the coordination mechanisms between the United Nations agencies were working well, involving the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP and UNICEF. The humanitarian agencies in particular were doing great work, with WFP focusing on food assistance; UNICEF providing non-food aid, including medicines, blankets, clothing and water-related supplies; and UNHCR focusing on what was the world's largest refugee problem. Even in the midst

of the bombing, the United Nations was at work, with UNICEF and WHO supporting two rounds of synchronized NIDs against polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan in early November and late December. Thousands of Afghan workers had been trained for the NIDs, and 30 million children had been immunized in Pakistan and over 4 million in Afghanistan.

479. The humanitarian emergency was still a priority, she said, and despite all the talk about recovery and reconstruction, the immediate focus must be survival, especially of women and children. Security remained a problem, as did exposure to harsh winter weather, landmines and the destroyed economy. Looking forward, she said that there would be a transitional representative council leading to the formation of a Government and better security, but these humanitarian needs would continue for some time. Already, the UNDG agencies were working together to plan for the recovery effort, identifying needs and lead agencies for different areas. UNICEF already had some international staff in Kabul, Herat and Faizabad, and would be moving in more staff as soon as possible.

480. Immediate priorities would be health, she said, including routine immunization, especially against measles, which had not been as successful as the NIDs. UNICEF would have a particular focus on education, supporting home schools for girls and boys, one of which she had visited, as well as public schools, which were due to re-open on 21 March, the start of the school year in Afghanistan. UNICEF support would include reviewing the condition of the schools and making some minor repairs, helping to find teachers and providing school supplies. Landmine awareness would be another priority, with a new target audience to be made aware of the problem of UXO, and demining activities were already under way. Women were emerging as important actors, for example, as social mobilizers, working in local bakeries sponsored by WFP or as local UNICEF staff members. She stressed that the United Nations had to remain strong in this area.

481. In closing, she reminded the Board about the consolidated appeals that had recently been launched by the United Nations for a large number of countries. Last year, Afghanistan had been a forgotten emergency and now it was at the forefront of attention. It was important not to forget surrounding countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan, or other countries such as Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which still had enormous humanitarian needs.

Recommendation for additional resources for approved regular resources and the extension of a subregional programme

482. The Executive Board had before it for approval a recommendation for additional regular resources for 22 country programmes and the extension of one subregional programme, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.72. As the result of the application of the modified system and the estimated global levels of regular resources available for programmes in 2001 and 2002, the level of regular resources planned for 22 countries was higher than the balance of approved regular resources available to these countries. The Amazon subregional programme was approved until 2001 for funding from other resources, but the funding ceiling had not been reached (see annex II, decision 2001/15, for the recommendations approved by the Executive Board).

Intercountry programmes

483. The Director, Programme Division, introduced the intercountry programmes submission (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.74), which set out the programmes and budgets for headquarters, regional offices and intercountry programmes for the period 2002-2003. The total budget for approval amounted to $222.5 million ($19.7 million in regular resources and $202.8 million in other resources) and was designed specifically for activities in support of the five organizational priorities of the MTSP. The budget for advocacy and programme development at headquarters amounted to $12.7 million in regular resources and $63.0 million in other resources. The amount of $26.7 million would be allocated among the technical programmes in health, nutrition, education, child protection, HIV/AIDS and WES to provide direct support to a combination of the five organizational priorities of the MTSP; the remaining $48.9 million would be allocated to support activities in programme policy, planning and information management, information technology, advocacy and communication, emergency preparedness, evaluation and inter-agency collaboration. At the regional level, the seven UNICEF regional offices would play a strategic role in guiding and supporting the country offices in using the MTSP as the framework for UNICEF activities in programmes, partnerships, alliances, advocacy and internal operation. The proposed $73.8 million budget ($7 million from regular resources and $66.8 million in other resources) would be allocated

among the seven regions to support the country programmes to implement activities to achieve the MTSP goals. The specific regional concerns would be addressed within the MTSP priorities, including the widespread HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, the low immunization rates in parts of the West and Central Africa region and malnutrition in South Asia. The intercountry programmes budget proposal amounted to $73 million in other resources, with the overall purpose of allowing the organization to respond to new opportunities for children as they arose at regional, multi-country, country and, in exceptional cases, global levels in addition to the ceilings approved through individual country programmes. These funds would provide a flexible window to receive and assign new contributions often of a significant magnitude covering several countries that could not be immediately accommodated within approved funding ceilings. There were no comments from delegations (see annex II, decision 2001/16, for the resolutions adopted by the Executive Board).

Statement by the President of the Security Council

484. During the deliberations on agenda item 5, the President of the Executive Board suspended the formal meeting to hear a statement by the President of the Security Council, Moctar Ouane, Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations. He spoke about recent Security Council discussions on issues related to UNICEF work, especially children in armed conflict, with specific reference to the situation in West Africa.

D. Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

485. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, introduced the report, which detailed the steps taken or to be taken in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the UNICEF accounts for the biennium 1998-1999 and on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for the biennium 1996-1997 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.8). Since the preparation of the report, the following actions had been taken:

(a) Recommendation No. 2 — "UNICEF should revise the mandate of OIA to reflect the annual reporting to the Executive Board": UNICEF had complied fully with this recommendation;

(b) Recommendation No. 8 — "UNICEF should consider external representation from another United Nations organization on its Internal Audit Committee": UNICEF had invited the UNDP Director of Internal Audit to be the external representative.

486. Speakers commented on the analyses undertaken by UNICEF, and questioned whether the actions taken by UNICEF as a result of the Board of Auditors' recommendations furthered programme implementation. They also requested clarification about the global implementation level of 87 per cent for total programme expenditure.

487. The Deputy Executive Director replied that all Board of Auditor observations were helpful in taking the organization forward. With regard to measuring performance, she explained that internally, no one criterion was looked at in isolation. However, the Board of Auditors had expressed the view that UNICEF should report on one implementation benchmark (see annex II, decision 2001/17, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

E. Financial matters

Private Sector Division financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000

488. The Director, PSD, presented the financial report and statement for the 12-month period ending 31 December 2000 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.6). He reported that the total net income in 2000 for regular resources at $163.3 million showed a decline from the record performance in 1999. This decline reflected in part the unfavourable market reality in the card and products business and the impact of the strong United States dollar. Gross proceeds from the sale of cards and products decreased by 17.1 per cent to $117.4 million compared to 1999. Apart from the negative exchange rate movement, sales volume and margins had been under pressure in most markets in 2000. As a result, the net operating income from card and product sales dropped to $41.7 million, $23.5 million less than in 1999. He said that although the overall health of the fund-raising segment remained strong, the performance of private sector

fund-raising activities in 2000 was flat compared to 1999, with a net operating income of $154 million.

489. In 2001, the Private Sector Fund-raising Task Force had presented its initial recommendations, which reconfirmed fund-raising as the dominant thrust area supported by card and product sales. While the final report of the Task Force was due to be released in the first quarter of 2002, the Director advised delegations of some of the important recommendations that had already been or were in the process of being implemented. He looked forward to presenting in more detail the status of that important subject during his presentation of the PSD work plan and proposed budget for 2002 at the first regular Board session in January 2002.

490. In response to the Director's presentation, it was recommended that at its next regular session, the Board allocate additional time for discussions on ways to reverse the declining sales trend and the sluggish results of private sector fund-raising activities. To that end, he agreed to provide, as part of the PSD work plan and budget for 2002 presentation, additional financial analysis to facilitate such deliberations. A speaker reiterated a request made by many delegations at the second regular session of 2000 that the secretariat brief Board members on UNICEF guidelines for partnerships with the corporate sector (see annex II, decision 2001/19, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

UNICEF interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000, the first year of the biennium 2000-2001

491. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, introduced the "Interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000, the first year of the biennium 2000-2001" (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.5). She explained that this was an interim report, and provided a brief overview of the financial statements. There were no comments from delegations (see annex II, decision 2001/20, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

Status of budget implementation for UNICEF support to the Special Session on Children and associated events

492. The Executive Board had before it a report on the "Status of budget implementation for UNICEF support to the Special Session on Children and associated events" (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.9), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Alliances and Resources. He said that UNICEF would continue to act as the substantive secretariat for the Special Session, which had been rescheduled by the General Assembly for 8-10 May 2002. The Special Session would be preceded by the Children's Forum, which would take place on 6 and 7 May. As the secretariat, UNICEF would work within the budget originally approved for the Special Session, but it would require contributions from Member States for the unfunded balance of the approved budget of $1.1 million. The Executive Director also stressed the importance of continued financial support by Member States.

493. The delegations of the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany announced pledges for the Special Session and related events (see annex II, decision 2001/21, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

F. Report on internal audit activities

494. In presenting the report on internal audit activities in 2000 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.7), the Director of the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) stated that 34 field office audits were completed, as well as 7 audits of headquarters/global issues. He noted that overall control continued to be satisfactory in UNICEF and that the control issues noted in 1999 had been largely addressed. He stated that the use of the Programme Manager System (ProMS) had improved, but reported that there remained a need to strengthen the use of ProMS' programme planning facilities.

495. The Director acknowledged the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report related to OIA's annual report to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.11). He described OIA's strategy in the audit of field offices, which was to assess the functioning of an office's internal controls in the performance of its programme and operations responsibilities, identify areas of risk, and make recommendations to strengthen controls over those risks.

496. Several delegations noted the positive advances in audit methodology and coverage made by OIA, and also expressed their endorsement of the recommendations cited in the Advisory Committee report cited above. They also expressed particular

interest in securing additional information on OIA's findings in the reported areas and a statement from OIA on management's implementation of actions to address the audit recommendations. The Director assured the Board that these requests would be addressed in the next year's report through, inter alia, expanded information on the criteria used by OIA in implementing its audits and assigning risk ratings.

497. One delegation requested that next year's report state the management actions taken to address the audit recommendations on building capacity among counterparts in the use and reporting of cash assistance, and the high levels of year-end procurement of supplies in some field offices.

498. One delegation requested the names of the six field locations that had unsatisfactory ratings in all audited areas. The Director reported that the locations were: Kenya country office, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Chad and the Consolidated Supply Service in Nairobi. The Director noted that in none of the cited locations was fraud or misuse of resources detected by the audits. He informed the Board that unsatisfactory ratings indicated weak internal controls, and that implementation of the audit recommendations should bring the offices up to a satisfactory level. Several delegations requested that in the next annual report OIA state the actions management had taken to strengthen the internal controls in those locations.

499. One delegation remarked on the statement in the annual report that 80 per cent of field offices had developed an audit action plan and requested that OIA make an effort to raise the percentage of offices that complete such plans, and to report on those efforts in the next annual report. The Director noted that the action plan was voluntary and provided a preliminary indication of how an office intended to address the recommendations. The formal response to an audit of actual actions taken was mandatory.

500. One delegation requested information on the interval between audits of field locations. The prevailing policy, said the Director, was that the interval should not be greater than four full years. He stated that while performance of this standard had not been met in the mid-1990s, OIA had made a considerable effort over the last several years to ensure fulfilment, and he noted that with the completion of the 2002 audits this should be secured (see annex II, decision 2001/18, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

G. Programme of work fo

501. The programme of work
sessions in 2002 (E/ICEF/2002/
the Secretary of the Executive Bo
some of the changes the secretari
for some of the agenda items
commented on his presentation.

502. Four speakers made genera
the working methods of the B
expressed appreciation for the
make the discussion of the
strategic, with one speaker not
proposed change to the forn
programme review. On the other
thought that the discussion of th
been longer and more intensive.
one speaker acknowledged th
dialogue had not always been sa
to the unwillingness on the par
answer questions posed by
suggested that perhaps the reg
provide a general update of t
respective regions before intr
notes. A speaker also suggested
appropriate for the secretariat t
reply to questions or provide a
and that it might be possible fo
later in writing. The importance
way dialogue was stressed.

503. Regarding the length o
deliberations on any particula
Secretary of the Board replied th
with the Board. On the subject o
country notes, the Secretary ack
was much that the secretariat co
dialogue. He suggested that Board
the secretariat at an early stage
session meeting — of some of th
regional directors to address. This
be shared with regional directors s
focus their presentations.

504. Speakers stressed the imp
joint meeting of the Executive
UNDP/UNFPA and WFP, and
suggestions: (a) that there c
discussion of the possibility of j
future; (b) that the time allocat
extended to one full day; and (c

discussion of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review. In addition, one delegation enquired about the possibility of inviting a member of the Security Council to brief delegations at the joint meeting. Board members were also urged to follow closely the discussion in UNDP/UNFPA Board on how to further strengthen inter-agency dialogue.

505. The Secretary of the Board said that the secretariat had no problem with a full-day event. It would be up to the Bureaux of the Executive Boards to decide whether it was worthwhile to discuss the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

506. In response to a question about the best time for National Committees to attend the Board in 2002, the Secretary said that their participation fit nicely with the discussion of the PSD work plan and proposed budget, which would be at the first regular session each year. In concluding, he thanked delegations for their comments, noting that there was now agreement on how to move forward (see annex II, decision 2001/23, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

507. The Executive Director said that the secretariat wanted to engage in dialogue with the Board, and asked delegations to inform the secretariat if they thought they had not received a full response to their comments. She would regret making the process overly complicated, with delegations asking questions one day and the secretariat reverting with a formal presentation a day later. The secretariat wanted the discussions to be marked by vitality, liveliness and engagement, and so delegations should feel free to ask questions again if they thought they had not received an answer. On the issue of having regional directors give an overview, she said that perhaps they could focus on one issue in particular to avoid making presentations that were too general and without much substance. On the joint Board meetings, she said missions occasionally sent different people to cover the Boards of the different funds and programmes. More often than not, she had observed that the person responsible for UNDP attended the joint meetings, and she urged them to send instead the UNICEF focal point.

H. Other matters

Yokohama Congress

508. The delegation of Japan informed the Executive Board about the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which would be hosted by the Government of Japan from 17 to 20 December in Yokohama, in cooperation with UNICEF, ECPAT International and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Conference would be the follow-up to the first World Congress, held in Sweden in 1996, at which the Declaration and Agenda for Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children had been adopted. In order to raise public awareness of the issue and strengthen partnerships among all the actors concerned, the Government of Japan and the other co-organizers were seeking broad participation, including that of NGOs and representatives of the private business sector. There would also be youth participation. So far, 110 States had indicated their intention to participate in the Congress. Relevant information, including the objectives, main themes and programme of the Congress were available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He thanked UNICEF, which as one of the co-organizers, had held five regional consultations in cooperation with the stakeholders on the issue. The consultations would provide important input to the Congress.

509. The Executive Director agreed with the delegate of Japan about the importance of the Yokohama Congress and said that UNICEF was at the same moment launching for the press a major publication on commercial sexual exploitation of children, *Profiting from Abuse*, which would be made available to delegations.

2001 UNICEF Staff Award

510. The Executive Director announced the winners of the 2001 Staff Awards, which historically had been given to field offices. This year, she had made a different choice and decided to give the Award to the members of the UNICEF Special Session team, lead by Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam, for their extraordinary dedication and teamwork in mobilizing support and participation from Governments, the private sector, media, NGOs, community leaders and households towards active involvement in the Special Session on Children.

I. Closing of the session

511. The Executive Director thanked the delegations that had pledged additional funding for the budget of the Special Session. She also expressed appreciation to

the members of the Bureau and the President for their leadership during the year, as well as to the Board secretariat for its excellent work. In closing, she wished for peace in the New Year.

512. The President also thanked the members of the Bureau, as well as the Executive Director and other members of the secretariat for their support. He commended the staff of UNICEF, both at headquarters and in the field, for their work on behalf of children around the world.

Annex I

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES FOR 1999 TO 2001 AND INDICATIVE PLEDGES FOR 2002 AND 2003

Pledged and/or paid as at 28 March 2001

(Expressed in thousands of currency pledged and in United States dollars equivalents)

(This matrix shows firm pledges and indicative pledges from member States. A number of countries -unable to make pledges at this time- indicated expectations that their contributions would be equal to or exceed current levels of support.)

Country	1999 Actual		2000 Actual (a)		2001 Pledged		2002 Indication		2003 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Afghanistan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Albania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Algeria	20.0	20.0	25.0	25.0 (m)	20.0	20.0 (r)	20.0	20.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Andorra	12.6	12.6	13.3	13.3 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Angola	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Antigua and Barbuda	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Argentina	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Armenia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	4,990.0	2,809.1	4,672.0	3,033.8 (h)	4,800.0	2,666.7 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Austria	20,000.0	1,556.0 (m)	15,000.0	1,011.4 (m)	15,000.0	1,014.3 (f,s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Azerbaijan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bahamas	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0 (n,m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bahrain	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bangladesh	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0 (g)	34.5	34.5 (r)	34.5	34.5 (s,o)	0.0	0.0
Barbados	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0 (b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Belarus	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0 (m)	5.0	5.0 (r)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Belgium	80,000.0	1,986.6	127,000.0	2,776.5 (n,q)	90,000.0	2,076.3 (s)	100,000.0	2,306.6 (s,o)	100,000.0	2,306.6 (s,o)
Belize	50.0	50.5 (m)	37.8	37.8 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Benin	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bhutan	0.0	0.0	21.0	21.0 (o,m)	12.1	12.1 (r)	12.1	12.1 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Bolivia	70.0	70.0	10.0	10.0 (h)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Botswana	0.0	0.0	24.0	5.7 (n,m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brazil	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
British Virgin Islands	38.4	38.4	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5 (e,m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bulgaria	250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burkina Faso	0.1	0.1	7.2	7.2 (m)	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burundi	0.0	0.0	1,000.0	1.3 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Cameroon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canada	13,500.0	8,940.4	13,500.0	9,081.1 (m)	13,500.0	8,940.4 (i,j)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cape Verde	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Central African Republic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chad	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chile	70.0	70.0 (b)	70.0	70.0 (b,g)	70.0	70.0 (r)	70.0	70.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
China	1,100.0	1,100.0	1,137.1	1,137.1 (b,g,h)	1,150.0	1,150.0 (b,r)	1,150.0	1,150.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Colombia	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0 (g,h)	450.0	450.0 (r)	450.0	450.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Comoros	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Congo	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Costa Rica	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cote d'Ivoire	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Croatia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cuba	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0 (b,e,h)	25.0	25.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3 (g,q)	1.5	1.5 (r)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Czech Republic	5,000.0	145.4	5,000.0	128.2 (g)	5,000.0	132.6 (f,r)	5,000.0	132.6 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0 (b)	65.0	30.4 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Denmark	190,000.0	26,223.0	190,000.0	22,951.9 (h)	190,000.0	23,660.7 (s)	190,000.0	23,661.3 (i,s)	190,000.0	23,661.3 (i,s)
Djibouti	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dominica	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dominican Republic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecuador	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	22.3 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Egypt	-0.6	-0.6	130.0	34.7 (g)	130.0	34.8 (r)	130.0	34.8 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
El Salvador	0.0	0.0	26.0	26.0 (e,m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equatorial Guinea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eritrea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Estonia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ethiopia	49.3	49.3	36.9	36.9 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fiji	4.8	2.5	5.1	2.3 (h)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Finland	64,000.0	11,271.7	70,000.0	11,158.4 (m,q)	70,000.0	10,954.8 (f,i)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
France	49,000.0	7,704.0 (c)	48,000.0	6,782.6 (m)	49,200.0	6,979.1 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gabon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gambia	0.0	0.0	4.7	4.7 (m)	5.0	5.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Georgia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Germany	10,700.0	5,921.1	8,500.0	4,206.4 (h)	8,500.0	4,043.9 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ghana	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (g)	10.0	10.0 (s)	10.0	10.0 (s,o)	10.0	10.0 (s,o)
Greece	230.0	230.0 (f)	230.0	230.0 (h)	265.0	265.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grenada	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guatemala	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guinea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guinea-Bissau	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guyana	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Haiti	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Holy See	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Honduras	22.2	22.2	24.9	24.9 (n)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hungary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Iceland	8,858.6	131.8	9,487.2	109.0 (h,l)	9,500.0	112.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	31,000.0	718.3	43,750.0	959.7 (g,q)	38,700.0	833.7 (f,r)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0 (e)	53.5	53.5 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Iraq	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ireland	1,475.5	1,989.3 (l)	2,000.0	2,347.1 (n,m)	3,000.0	3,544.4 (s)	4,350.0	5,139.4	6,300.0	7,443.3
Israel	55.0	55.0	60.0	60.0 (m)	60.0	60.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Italy	14,000,000.0	7,563.5	20,000,000.0	9,524.2 (n,q)	22,000,000.0	10,572.3 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jamaica	0.0	0.0	60.0	60.0 (b,g)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Japan	25,215.0	25,298.9	25,596.0	25,596.0 (h)	25,600.0	25,600.0 (f,i)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jordan	0.0	0.0	20.0	28.2 (e)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kazakhstan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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(This matrix shows firm pledges and indicative pledges from member States. A number of countries -unable to make pledges at this time- indicated expectations that their contributions would be equal to or exceed current levels of support.

Country	1999 Actual		2000 Actual (a)		2001 Pledged		2002 Indication		2003 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Kenya	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kiribati	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kuwait	200.0	200.0 (i)	200.0	200.0 (g)	200.0	200.0 (r)	200.0	200.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Kyrgyzstan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (g)	5.4	5.4 (r)	5.0	5.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Latvia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lebanon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lesotho	23.6	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liberia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liechtenstein	7.0	5.0	7.0	4.3 (g)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	16,000.0	426.2	18,000.0	417.8 (n)	20,000.0	461.3 (f,s)	20,000.0	461.3 (i,s)	20,000.0	461.3 (i,s)
Madagascar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malawi	60.0	1.3	60.0	0.8 (g,i)	120.0	1.5 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malaysia	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0 (g,f)	84.0	84.0 (r)	84.0	84.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Maldives	88.6	7.5	7.8	7.6 (g)	7.5	7.5 (r)	7.5	7.5 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Mali	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malta	0.0	0.0	3.3	3.3 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Marshall Islands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mauritania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mauritius	0.0	0.0	360.0	14.3 (e)	9.0	9.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mexico	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0 (b,g)	200.0	200.0 (i,r)	200.0	200.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Monaco	86.3	14.1	14.0	14.0 (g,k)	16.0	16.0 (f,r)	16.0	16.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Mongolia	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0 (g,h)	11.0	11.0 (r)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Morocco	0.0	0.0	1,506.0	145.7 (b)	0.0	0.0 (b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mozambique	21.0	21.0	3.0	3.0 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Myanmar	0.0	0.0	651.0	1.9 (b,e)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Namibia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES FOR 1999 TO 2001 AND INDICATIVE PLEDGES FOR 2002 AND 2003

Pledged and/or paid as at 28 March 2001

(Expressed in thousands of currency pledged and in United States dollars equivalents)

(This matrix shows firm pledges and indicative pledges from member States. A number of countries -unable to make pledges at this time- indicated expectations that their contributions would be equal to or exceed current levels of support.

Country	1999 Actual		2000 Actual (a)		2001 Pledged		2002 Indication		2003 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Nauru	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nepal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	52,000.0	25,316.3	55,500.0	22,753.6 (h,q)	59,000.0	24,912.1 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New Zealand	1,500.0	789.9	1,900.0	926.1 (m,n,q)	2,200.0	973.5 (s)	2,200.0	973.5 (i,s)	2,200.0	973.5 (i,s)
Nicaragua	0.0	0.0	7.0	7.0 (n)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Niger	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nigeria	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	280,000.0	36,021.0	280,000.0	32,676.0 (h)	310,000.0	34,909.9 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oman	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0 (g,i)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pakistan	2,750.0	60.7 (b)	50.8	50.8 (b,k)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Palau	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Panama	33.6	33.6 (e)	22.7	22.7 (n)	8.3	8.3 (m)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Papua New Guinea	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0 (h)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Paraguay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Peru	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0 (r)	10.0	10.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Philippines	48.1	48.1 (b)	50.5	50.5 (b,h,f)	54.1	54.1 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poland	155.5	46.0	208.0	46.0 (g,f)	56.0	56.0 (f,r)	56.0	56.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Portugal	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0 (h,i)	200.0	200.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Qatar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Republic of Korea	1,200.0	1,200.0	1,300.0	1,300.0 (m,n)	1,300.0	1,300.0 (f,i,r)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Republic of Moldova	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Romania	85,276.4	4.7	210,000.0	9.9 (g,h)	300,000.0	11.7 (i,s)	320,000.0	12.5 (i,s)	350,000.0	13.7 (i,s)
Russian Federation	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0 (f,g,h)	500.0	500.0 (f,r)	500.0	500.0 (i,r)	500.0	500.0 (i,r)
Rwanda	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Saint Lucia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2 (e)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Samoa	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
San Marino	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sao Tome and Principe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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Country	1999 Actual		2000 Actual (a)		2001 Pledged		2002 Indication		2003 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Saudi Arabia	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0 (g)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Senegal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Seychelles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sierra Leone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Singapore	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0 (g)	50.0	50.0 (r)	50.0	50.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	347.0	1.9	3.7	3.7 (h)	10.0	10.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solomon Islands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Somalia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South Africa	202.7	33.5	200.0	31.6 (h)	200.0	26.3 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spain	275,000.0	1,719.8 (d)	295,000.0	1,495.6 (n)	295,000.0	1,649.7 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sri Lanka	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5 (b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sudan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Suriname	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Swaziland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sweden	265,000.0	32,932.5	290,000.0	31,156.9 (h,q)	297,000.0	31,098.9 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	17,006.0	11,190.7	17,000.0	10,303.0 (h)	17,000.0	10,365.9 (i,s)	17,000.0	10,365.9 (i,s)	17,000.0	10,365.9 (i,s)
Syrian Arab Republic	0.0	0.0	852.0	18.5	5.1	5.1 (r)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tajikistan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Thailand	2,080.5	210.6 (b, k)	104.9	104.9 (b,g,k)	0.0	0.0 (j)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0 (m)	2.0	2.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Togo	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tonga	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trinidad and Tobago	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6 (m,n)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tunisia	40.5	34.8	37.0	34.8 (g,h)	37.0	26.3 (r)	37.0	26.3 (i,r)	37.0	26.3 (i,r)
Turkey	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0 (g,h)	120.0	120.0 (r)	120.0	120.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Turkmenistan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tuvalu	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Uganda	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0 (h)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ukraine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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Country	1999 Actual		2000 Actual (a)		2001 Pledged		2002 Indication		2003 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
United Arab Emirates	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (g)	100.0	100.0 (r)	100.0	100.0 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	13,000.0	21,015.5	17,000.0	26,666.6 (h,q)	17,000.0	25,000.0 (s)	17,000.0	25,000.0 (o,s)	17,000.0	25,000.0 (o,s)
United Republic of Tanzania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
United States of America	105,000.0	105,000.0	109,582.0	109,582.0 (h)	110,000.0	110,000.0 (s)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Uruguay	30.0	30.0 (e)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Uzbekistan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vanuatu	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Venezuela	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Viet Nam	0.0	0.0	13.7	13.7 (g)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Yemen	16.7	16.7	18.4	18.4 (g,h)	16.7	16.7 (r)	16.7	16.7 (i,r)	0.0	0.0
Yugoslavia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zambia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zimbabwe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		343,207.7		342,583.4		345,794.4		71,225.9		70,761.8
Contributions towards local costs		110.3		323.5		63.0				
Adjustments to prior years		1,213.5		(27.7)						
TOTAL GOVERNMENTS *		344,531.5		342,879.2		345,857.4		71,225.9		70,761.8

LEGEND:

(a) Amounts reported are provisional, change may occur.
(b) Amount reported excludes contribution towards local costs.
(c) Additional 1998 contribution (FrF 1 million equivalent to US$ 177,870), recorded in 1999 as 1999 income.
(d) Additional Esp15 million pledged for 1999 received on 6 January 2000.
(e) Includes funds received for prior years' contributions.
(f) Subject to parliamentary approval.
(g) Pledge made during 1999 United Nations Pledging Conference.
(h) Pledge made subsequent to 1999 United Nations Pledging Conference and/or confirmed during first regular UNICEF Executive Board session of 2000.
(i) Tentative pledge or formal pledge not received.
(j) To be announced during fiscal year.
(k) Includes contributions made and/or paid in both currencies.
(l) Amount in local currency adjusted upon application of United Nations exchange rate when payment received.
(m) No amount formal pledged. Recording of cash received in installments or as a lump sum.
(n) Pledge received after Executive Board session in 2000.
(o) Firm pledge.
(p) Amount received in 1999 for 2000.
(q) Additional pledge made/received to initial commitment.
(r) Pledge made during the United Nations Pledging Conference, November 2000.
(s) Pledge made for the UNICEF Pledging Event, January 2001 Executive Board session.
* This total figure does not include contributions from intergovernmental agencies of $405,100 in 1999 and $271,200 in 2000.

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2001

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First regular session

2001/1
Election of the officers of the Executive Board for 2001

The Executive Board

Decides to elect the following officers of the Executive Board for 2001:

President:	H.E. Dr. Movses Abelian (Armenia)
Vice-Presidents:	H.E. Mr. Andrés Franco (Colombia)
	Ms. Jacqueline de Lacy (Australia)
	Mr. Paul Goa Zoumanigui (Guinea)
	H.E. Mr. Alounkèo Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

First regular session
22 January 2001

2001/2
Election of Executive Board representatives to the joint committees for the 2001-2002 biennium

The Executive Board

1. *Decides* to elect the following member and alternate to the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health for the 2001-2002 biennium (1 January 2001-31 December 2002):

From the Asian group of States, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al-Sindi as member and Mr. Walid Ethary as alternate (Yemen);

2. *Decides* to elect the following member to the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education for the 2001-2002 biennium (1 January 2001-31 December 2002):

From the Western European and Others group of States, Mr. Kaviraj Appadu (Sweden) as member;

3. *Agrees* that the candidates to be proposed by the regional groups that have not yet submitted nominations to the joint committees will be considered elected upon receipt by the secretariat of a letter from the Chairman of the respective regional group confirming the nominations.

First regular session
22 January 2001

2001/3
Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the "Report of the Executive Director: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council" (E/ICEF/2001/4 (Part I));

2. *Requests* the secretariat to transmit it, along with a summary of the comments made during the discussion, to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2001.

First regular session
22 January 2001

2001/4
Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the "Report of the Executive Director: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council" (E/ICEF/2001/4 (Part I));

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for its reports dealing with issues of relevance to the management and operations of UNICEF;

3. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations contained within these reports and of the comments of the Executive Director thereon;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit reports of the JIU to the Executive Board at its first regular session, along with a brief summary of these reports and, where appropriate, recommendations for action by the Board, as part of the agenda item dealing with part I of the report of the Executive Director;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to inform the Executive Board of measures taken on the implementation of recommendations of the JIU.

First regular session
22 January 2001

2001/5
Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2001

A
Private Sector Division budgeted expenditures for the 2001 season

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* for the fiscal year 1 January to 31 December 2001 budgeted expenditures of $87.7 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1:

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Commissions — field offices	2.0
Cost of goods delivered	32.0
Marketing expenditures	20.2
Support Services	18.6
Market Development Programme (MDP)	3.4
Fund-raising Development Programme (FDP)	7.0
Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme	0.4
Nordic Investment Programme	4.1
Total expenditures, consolidated*	**87.7**

* For details, see table 2.

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures, as summarized in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1, and to increase expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of the same table should the apparent proceeds from card and product sales and/or private sector fund-raising increase to the levels indicated in column III and, accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II, to the maximum extent possible, should the net proceeds decrease;

(b) To redeploy resources between the various budget lines (as detailed in para. 1 above) up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2001 approved work plan.

B
Budgeted income for the 2001 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the period 1 January to 31 December 2001, Private Sector Division (PSD) net proceeds are budgeted at $272.8 million (regular resources) as shown in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1.

C
Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the changes in posts with a net decrease of four posts, as indicated in annexes I and III to document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1;

2. *Renews* MDP with $3.4 million established for 2001;

3. *Renews* FDP with $7.0 million established for 2001;

4. *Renews* the Central and Eastern National Committees Development Programme, which includes nine countries, with a budget of $0.4 million established for 2001;

5. *Renews* the Nordic Investment Programme, which includes four countries, with a budget of $4.1 million for 2001;

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to incur expenditures in the 2001 fiscal period related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for the 2002 fiscal year up to $32.5 million as indicated in the PSD medium-term plan (see table 6 of document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1).

D
Medium-term plan

The Executive Board

Approves the PSD medium-term plan as reflected in table 6 of document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.1.

First regular session
24 January 2001

2001/6
Financial matters

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the "UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 and report of the Board of Auditors" (A/55/5/Add.2) and the "Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.2);

2. *Decides* to revert to the issue of cash assistance to Governments during the first regular session of 2002 on the basis of a report by UNICEF on its current practice and financial regulations and rules.

First regular session
24 January 2001

2001/7
Consideration on the establishment of an operational reserve

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of UNICEF on the "Establishment of an operational reserve" (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.3) that was prepared in response to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that the Executive Board should review the advantages and disadvantages of establishing an operational reserve for both regular and other resources (E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.10, para. 9);

2. *Takes note* also of the report of ACABQ (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.4);

3. *Further takes note* of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the UNICEF accounts for the biennium 1998-1999, as well as UNICEF's progress report on specific steps taken to implement these recommendations;

4. *Decides* that UNICEF should continue its current financial management practice based on management of its short-term liquidity requirement on a cash-flow basis and should not establish a funded operating reserve;

5. *Further decides* that it will maintain the issue of establishing an operational reserve under review and will consider it further at its first regular session in 2003 taking into account the report of ACABQ on the biennial support budget of UNICEF for the period 2002-2003 and the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the biennium 2000-2001.

First regular session
24 January 2001

Annual session

2001/8
Report on the third session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

The Executive Board

Takes note of and *approves* the report on the third session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (E/ICEF/2001/11).

Annual session
5 June 2001

2001/9
UNICEF activities in immunization

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report on "A good start for every child: UNICEF programming to improve immunization services and child health, reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable disease and eradicate polio" (E/ICEF/2001/9).

Annual session
6 June 2001

2001/10
Report on the field visit of Executive Board members

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report on the field visit of Executive Board members to the Republic of Moldova and Romania, as contained in E/ICEF/2001/CRP.7, and of the oral presentation on the field visit of Executive Board members to the Gambia and Senegal.

Annual session
6 June 2001

2001/11
UNICEF experience with sector-wide approaches and sector development programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report on sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) contained in document E/ICEF/2001/10;

2. *Also takes note* of the report submitted to the third session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH) on "Sector-wide approaches for health and development: the role of organizations of the United Nations system" (CCH3/01/3), and of the views expressed by the members of the CCH at the third session on this issue;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to strengthen further UNICEF participation in SWAPs identified on the basis of national specific needs and priorities in full respect for the programme country's ownership of SWAPs, through the planning and implementation of its country programmes; in accordance with its mandate and comparative advantage, including its overall advocacy for children's rights, with due regard to other existing partnership frameworks and cross-sectoral issues, taking into account the views expressed by the Executive Board members during the annual session 2001, and *encourages* UNICEF to join partners to support and strengthen programme country systems for monitoring, reporting and accounting, where feasible;

4. *Urges* the Executive Director to provide the appropriate national authorities with the relevant information in order to enhance their understanding of the operation of SWAPs;

5. *Requests* UNICEF, in collaboration with United Nations Development Group partners, where appropriate, to continue to ensure adequate staff training on SWAPs to enable the full participation of UNICEF in the processes;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report, in her annual report, as well as in the country notes, country programme recommendations, mid-term reviews and evaluations of country programmes, on the progress UNICEF achieved in its participation in SWAPs, within the reporting framework as defined in decision 1999/7 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1), and building on these, *requests* the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2002 on benefits, constraints and impediments with regard to UNICEF participation in SWAPs, including financial participation.

Annual session
6 June 2001

2001/12
Second regular session of 2001

The Executive Board,

Wishing to allow UNICEF to take full advantage of conclusions and outcomes of the General Assembly Special Session on Children, to be held from 19-21 September 2001, in the finalization of the medium-term strategic plan, *Decides* to merge the second regular session of the Executive Board with the extraordinary budget session.

Annual session
6 June 2001

Second regular session

2001/13
Biennial support budget for the period 2002-2003

The Executive Board,

Having considered the biennial support budget for 2002-2003, as contained in document E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.10,

1. *Approves* gross appropriations in the amount of $566,169,000 for purposes indicated below and *resolves* that the income estimates of $88,300,000 shall be used to offset the gross appropriations, resulting in estimated net appropriations of $477,869,000:

Biennial support budget for 2002-2003
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Programme support:	
Country and regional offices	295 653.4
Headquarters	77 462.9
Subtotal	**373 116.3**
Management and administration of the organization	193 052.7
Total gross appropriations	**566 169.0**
Less: Estimated income to the budget	88 300.0
Estimated net appropriations	**477 869.0**

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to redeploy resources between appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the appropriation to which the resources are redeployed.

Second regular session
10 December 2001

2001/14
Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the following recommendations of the Executive Director for programme cooperation as summarized in document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73:

(a) $410,261,601 for regular resources funding and $550,535,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in Africa, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2001/*
Burundi	2002-2004	8 006 000	23 884 000	P/L.57
	2001	54 000		P/L.72
Cameroon	2002	44 967		P/L.72
Comoros	2002-2002	684 000	450 000	P/L.58
Congo	2002	52 000		P/L.72
Côte d'Ivoire	2002-2002	3 367 000	1 700 000	P/L.59
Central African Republic	2002-2006	7 732 000	5 000 000	P/L.10/Add.1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2002	1 085 612		P/L.72
Equatorial Guinea	2002-2006	3 269 000	1 300 000	P/L.11/Add.1
Eritrea	2002-2006	6 283 000	28 000 000	P/L.1/Add.1
Ethiopia	2002-2006	80 487 000	60 000 000	P/L.2/Add.1
	2001	529 784		P/L.72
Gabon	2002-2006	3 100 000	3 000 000	P/L.12/Add.1
Gambia	2002-2006	3 635 000	7 700 000	P/L.13/Add.1
Guinea	2002-2006	11 966 000	15 750 000	P/L.14/Add.1
Guinea-Bissau	2002	176 197		P/L.72
Lesotho	2002-2007	5 579 000	13 500 000	P/L.3/Add.1
Liberia	2002	141 000		P/L.72
Malawi	2002-2006	23 755 000	35 120 000	P/L.4/Add.1
	2001	188 000		P/L.72
Mozambique	2002-2006	36 288 000	50 000 000	P/L.5/Add.1
Namibia	2002-2005	2 584 000	13 416 000	P/L.6/Add.1
Nigeria	2002-2007	123 706 000	72 000 000	P/L.15/Add.1
Sao Tome and Principe	2002-2006	3 090 000	500 000	P/L.16/Add.1
Senegal	2002-2006	10 262 000	27 550 000	P/L.17/Add.1
	2001	47 000		P/L.72
Sierra Leone	2002-2003	5 448 000	10 000 000	P/L.60
	2001	64 042		P/L.72
South Africa	2002-2006	4 459 000	20 165 000	P/L.7/Add.1 and Corr.1
	2001	56 999		P/L.72
Togo	2002-2006	8 131 000	4 000 000	P/L.18/Add.1
United Republic of Tanzania	2002-2006	37 793 000	110 000 000	P/L.8/Add.1
Zambia	2002-2006	18 123 000	47 500 000	P/L.9/Add.1
	2001	75 000		P/L.72

(b) $69,463,909 for regular resources funding and $252,135,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in the Americas and Caribbean, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2001/*
Belize	2002-2006	3 010 000	1 250 000	P/L.19/Add.1
Bolivia	2002	730 359		P/L.72
Brazil	2002-2006	3 705 000	86 295 000	P/L.20/Add.1
Colombia	2002-2007	5 075 000	18 000 000	P/L.21/Add.1
Costa Rica	2002-2006	3 030 000	2 250 000	P/L.22/Add.1
Cuba	2002-2006	3 069 000	6 500 000	P/L.23/Add.1
Dominican Republic	2002-2006	3 625 000	5 000 000	P/L.24/Add.1
Eastern Caribbean	2002	1 159 550		P/L.72
El Salvador	2002-2006	3 419 000	7 000 000	P/L.25/Add.1
Guatemala	2002-2006	4 639 000	25 750 000	P/L.26/Add.1
Haiti	2002-2006	9 862 000	17 500 000	P/L.27/Add.1
	2001	6 000		P/L.72
Honduras	2002-2006	4 260 000	6 250 000	P/L.28/Add.1
Jamaica	2002-2006	3 020 000	6 980 000	P/L.29/Add.1
Mexico	2002-2006	3 430 000	9 900 000	P/L.30/Add.1
Nicaragua	2002-2006	4 509 000	18 000 000	P/L.31/Add.1
Panama	2002-2006	2 100 000	2 250 000	P/L.32/Add.1
Paraguay	2002-2006	3 380 000	3 025 000	P/L.33/Add.1
Venezuela	2002-2007	2 935 000	5 280 000	P/L.34/Add.1
Southern Cone subregional				
Argentina	2002-2004	900 000	8 100 000	P/L.61
Chile	2002-2004	1 800 000	1 800 000	P/L.61
Uruguay	2002-2004	1 800 000	1 200 000	P/L.61
HIV/AIDS	2002-2006		15 805 000	P/L.62
Micronutrients	2002-2006		4 000 000	P/L.63

(c) $58,159,363 for regular resources funding and $117,675,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in Asia, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2001/*
Afghanistan	2002	276 631		P/L.72
Bhutan	2002-2006	4 390 000	10 000 000	P/L.38/Add.1
East Timor	2002	18 000		P/L.72
India	2002	7 732 502		P/L.72
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2002-2006	7 618 000	21 000 000	P/L.35/Add.1
Malaysia	2002-2004	1 500 000	450 000	P/L.64

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2001/*
Mongolia	2002-2006	4 309 000	5 000 000	P/L.36/Add.1
Nepal	2002-2006	21 606 000	51 394 000	P/L.39/Add.1
Pacific island countries	2002-2002	2 000 000	2 800 000	P/L.65
Papua New Guinea	2002	115 230		P/L.72
Sri Lanka	2002-2006	3 905 000	10 000 000	P/L.40/Add.1
Thailand	2002-2006	4 689 000	12 033 000	P/L.37/Add.1
Viet Nam	2002-2005		4 998 000	P/L.66

(d) $12,894,000 for regular resources funding and $66,500,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2001/*
Bosnia and Herzegovina and area office for former Yugoslavia	2002-2004	1 881 000	9 000 000	P/L.67
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	2002-2004	2 112 000	36 000 000	P/L.68
Republic of Moldova	2002-2006	3 565 000	7 500 000	P/L.41/Add.1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2002-2004	1 836 000	9 000 000	P/L.69
Multi-country programme	2002-2002	3 500 000	5 000 000	P/L.70

(e) $82,535,229 for regular resources funding and $123,091,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2001/*
Algeria	2002-2006	5 628 000	3 000 000	P/L.42/Add.1
	2001	34 000		P/L.72
Egypt	2002-2006	10 779 000	25 000 000	P/L.43/Add.1
Iraq	2002-2004	5 233 000	30 141 000	P/L.71
Lebanon	2002-2006	3 035 000	5 000 000	P/L.44/Add.1
Morocco	2002-2006	6 983 000	11 000 000	P/L.45/Add.1
Sudan	2002-2006	23 690 000	25 000 000	P/L.46/Add.1
Syrian Arab Republic	2002-2006	4 794 000	1 450 000	P/L.47/Add.1
	2001	29 000		P/L.72
Tunisia	2002-2006	3 329 000	2 500 000	P/L.48/Add.1
Yemen	2002-2006	18 855 000	20 000 000	P/L.49/Add.1
	2001	146 229		P/L.72

2. *Approves* the amount of $2,344,697 from regular resources to cover expenditures against write-off and overexpenditures due to revaluation, as summarized in table 4 of document E/ICEF/2001/73.

Second regular session
11 December 2001

2001/15
Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the allocation of additional regular resources in the total amount of $12,762,102 to fund the approved country programmes of 11 countries for 2001 and 11 countries for 2002, summarized in tables 1 and 2 of document E/ICEF/2001/P/L.72, as follows:

Table 1
Regular resources, 2001

(United States dollars)

Region/country	*Balance of approved RR 2001 (A)*	*RR planning level 2001 (B)*	*Amount to be approved (B-A)*
Eastern and Southern Africa			
Burundi	**2 332 000**	**2 386 000**	**54 000**
Ethiopia	**16 606 556**	**17 136 340**	**529 784**
Malawi	**4 480 000**	**4 668 000**	**188 000**
South Africa	**832 001**	**889 000**	**56 999**
Zambia	**3 197 000**	**3 272 000**	**75 000**
Subtotal	**27 447 557**	**28 351 340**	**903 783**
West and Central Africa			
Senegal	**1 922 000**	**1 969 000**	**47 000**
Sierra Leone	**2 445 958**	**2 510 000**	**64 042**
Subtotal	**4 367 958**	**4 479 000**	**111 042**
Americas and the Caribbean			
Haiti	**1 951 000**	**1 957 000**	**6 000**
Subtotal	**1 951 000**	**1 957 000**	**6 000**
Middle East and North Africa			
Algeria	**1 085 000**	**1 119 000**	**34 000**
Syrian Arab Republic	**926 000**	**955 000**	**29 000**
Yemen	**3 046 000**	**3 208 000**	**146 229**
Subtotal	**5 057 000**	**5 282 000**	**209 229**
Total	**38 823 515**	**40 069 340**	**1 245 825**

Table 2
Regular resources, 2002
(United States dollars)

Region/country	*Balance of approved RR 2002 (A)*	*RR planning level 2002 (B)*	*Amount to be approved (B-A)*
West and Central Africa			
Cameroon	**2 270 033**	**2 315 000**	**44 967**
Congo	**913 000**	**965 000**	**52 000**
Democratic Republic of the Congo	**14 855 388**	**15 941 000**	**1 085 612**
Guinea-Bissau	**826 803**	**1 003 000**	**176 197**
Liberia	**1 279 000**	**1 420 000**	**141 000**
Subtotal	**20 144 224**	**21 644 000**	**1 499 776**
Americas and the Caribbean			
Bolivia	**358 641**	**1 089 000**	**730 359**
Eastern Caribbean	**340 450**	**1 500 000**	**1 159 550**
Subtotal	**699 091**	**2 589 000**	**1 889 909**
East Asia and the Pacific			
East Timor	**741 000**	**759 000**	**18 000**
Papua New Guinea	**874 000**	**990 000**	**115 230**
Subtotal	**1 615 770**	**1 749 000**	**133 230**
South Asia			
Afghanistan	**8 712 369**	**8 989 000**	**276 631**
India	**22 467 498**	**30 200 000**	**7 732 502**
Subtotal	**31 179 867**	**39 189 000**	**8 009 133**
Total	**53 638 952**	**65 171 000**	**11 532 048**

2. *Also approves* the one-year extension of the Amazon subregional programme for social action to allow time to prepare a new programme proposal to start in 2003.

Second regular session
11 December 2001

2001/16
Intercountry programmes

I. Regular resources programme budget estimates for the 2002-2003 biennium

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That a regular resources programme budget of $19.67 million is approved (other than the Emergency Programme Fund) for 2002-2003 as per the following details:

Item	*Amount (thousands of United States dollars)*
Headquarters	
Health	1 203
Nutrition	800
Education	850
Child protection	430
HIV/AIDS	793
Water, environment and sanitation	504
Programme policy, planning and information management	1 760
Information technology	-
Advocacy and communication	3 990
Emergency preparedness	930
Evaluations	671
Inter-agency collaboration	740
Subtotal	12 671
Regions	
Eastern and Southern Africa	1 500
West and Central Africa	1 500
The Americas and Caribbean	800
East Asia and the Pacific	800
South Asia	800
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States	800
Middle East and North Africa	800
Subtotal	7 000
Total	19 671

(b) That the budget for the Emergency Programme Fund for 2002-2003 is approved for $25 million;

(c) That the Executive Director be authorized to administer the funds in the most efficient manner under the provision for each of the funds. The Executive Director may, without further authorization from the Executive Board, transfer, if necessary, between the programme fields an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of the fund to which the transfer is made.

II. Other resources-funded programme budget estimates for the2002-2003 biennium

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That another resources-funded programme budget of $203 million is approved for the 2002-2003 biennium, subject to availability of specific-purpose contributions, as follows:

	Headquarters	*Regions*	*Intercountry*	*Total*
	(Thousands of United States dollars)			
Regions				
Eastern and Southern Africa		14 800		14 800
West and Central Africa		9 400		9 400
The Americas and Caribbean		9 000		9 000
East Asia and the Pacific		6 650		6 650
South Asia		19 450		19 450
Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States		4 000		4 000
Middle East and North Africa		3 515		3 515
Subtotal		**66 825**		**66 825**
Headquarters				
Health	5 412		15 000	20 412
Nutrition	4 111		5 000	9 111
Education	1 896		5 000	6 896
Child protection	7 284		5 000	12 284
HIV/AIDS	821		10 000	10 821
Water, environment and sanitation	2 630		2 500	5 130
Programme policy, planning and information management	11 246		4 500	15 746
Information technology	15 300		1 000	16 300
Advocacy and communication	7 250		3 000	10 250
Emergency preparedness	6 700		20 000	26 700
Evaluations	200		1 000	1 200
Inter-agency collaboration	150		1 000	1 150
Subtotal	**63 000**		**73 000**	**136 000**
Total	**63 000**	**66 825**	**73 000**	**202 815**

(b) That for the biennium 2002-2003, a total recommendation of $203 million for other resources funding is approved. If necessary, funds in excess of indicated amounts for specific programme areas and regions can be received provided that the total amount of funds received is within the approved limit.

Second regular session
11 December 2001

2001/17
Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.8).

Second regular session
11 December 2001

2001/18
Report on internal audit activities

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report on internal audit activities in 2000 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.7).

Second regular session
12 December 2001

2001/19
Private Sector Division financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report entitled "Private Sector Division: financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000" (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.6).

Second regular session
12 December 2001

2001/20
UNICEF interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000, the first year of the biennium 2000-2001

The Executive Board

Takes note of the interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000, the first year of the biennium 2000-2001 (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.5).

Second regular session
12 December 2001

2001/21
Status of budget implementation for UNICEF support to the Special Session on Children and associated events

The Executive Board

1. *Decides* that in light of the Special Session on Children being postponed (General Assembly decision 56/401 of 12 September 2001) until 2002, the Executive Director will provide a final report on the use of the funds to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2003 instead of at its annual session of 2002;

2. *Urges* that Member States contribute to the unfunded balance of $1,132,665 to ensure that UNICEF, as the substantive secretariat, can adequately support the preparations and arrangements of the Special Session and the Children's Forum.

Second regular session
12 December 2001

2001/22
Medium-term strategic plan for the period 2002-2005

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) (E/ICEF/2001/13 and Corr.1) as a flexible framework for UNICEF action covering the period 2002-2005, which reaffirms the centrality of the UNICEF country programming approach, recognizing national ownership in the process and which is a contribution to the achievement of the final declaration of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, the Millennium Declaration and relevant International Development Targets;

2. *Approves* the organizational priorities for action set forth in the plan, taking into account the particularities of each country's situation;

3. *Approves* the MTSP as a framework of projections for 2002-2005 (summarized in table 5 of document E/ICEF/2001/13), including the preparation of up to $424 million in programme expenditures from regular resources to be submitted to the Executive Board in 2002 (shown in table 8, item 3, of document E/ICEF/2001/13). The amount is subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure made in this plan continue to be valid,

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, on an ongoing basis, to review and where necessary to propose adjustments to the MTSP based on the comments made by Board members, as reflected in the reports on its sessions, the results of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, and experience in implementing the plan;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to assess progress towards the targets set within the five organizational priorities in the MTSP in part II of the annual report to the Executive Board.

Second regular session
12 December 2001

2001/23
Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2002

The Executive Board

Adopts the following programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2002, contained in document E/ICEF/2001/14:

Session/date	*Programme of work*
First regular session (21-25 January 2002)	Report of the Executive Director (Part I): Annual report to the Economic and Social Council (1995/5, 1998/1, 1999/6, 2001/4) Country notes (1995/8) Approval process for country programmes Private Sector Division (PSD) work plan and proposed budget for 2002 (1994/A/9, 1996/22, 1998/5) Immunization (E/ICEF/2001/6 (Part II), paras. 123 and 132)

Session/date	*Programme of work*
	Proposal for revamping the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award
	Tribute to key actors of the Global Movement for Children: the role of volunteers in UNICEF National Committees
	Pledging event
	Joint meeting with the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and WFP
Annual session (3-7 June 2002)	Report of the Executive Director (Part II) (1999/7, 1999/8, 2000/6, 2001/11)
	Summary of mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes (1995/8)
	Report on the evaluation function in the context of the medium-term strategic plan
	Review of the main outcomes of the Special Session on Children
	Report of the Executive Board Working Group on Documentation
	Field visits of Executive Board members (1992/32)
Second regular session (16-20 September 2002)	Medium-term financial plan and related recommendation (2000/3)
	Oral report on decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council (1995/38 and E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1, para. 470)
	Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation (1995/8)
	Innocenti Research Centre: proposed work plan and budget for 2003-2005
	UNICEF participation in sector-wide approaches (2001/11)
	PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2001
	UNICEF financial report and statements for the end of the biennium 2000-2001 and report of the Board of Auditors
	Internal audit activities (1997/28)
	Report on the meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education, including the report of the President of the Executive Board on the meeting (1995/4)
	Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2003

Second regular session
12 December 2001

E/2001/34
E/ICEF/2001/6